

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti] [4th March 1927]

President ; but as has been very rightly pointed out by the hon. the Leader of the House, so far as this particular article is concerned, I do not think it comes within the range of articles where it is difficult to distinguish between criticism and attack. It accuses this House of abusing the privilege of supplemental questions and it attributes this abuse to your somewhat lenient conduct. Sir, you are too much of a parliamentarian to be swayed away by criticisms of this sort in regard to allowing hon. Members of this House to make full use of their privileges, and perhaps the only important privilege which hon. Members are given here. More than that, it further institutes a comparison between the Indian Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council and draws a comparison most unfavourable to this House by saying that this House lacks completely in the dignity which characterizes the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. That seems to me, Sir, to be a very bad attack against the dignity of this House. I do not propose to take the same stand as the *Madras Mail* ; but I think every one of us will agree that if such a comparison is instituted, the comparison will not be unfavourable to the Madras Legislative Council. Sir, no doubt, the *Madras Mail* has offered some sort of explanation yesterday evening so far as its comments in respect of you are concerned, but I do not feel that the paper has said anything with regard to the particular sentence that the proceedings of this House lack in dignity. However, having regard to the fact that some notice has been taken by this House, and hoping that the paper will conduct itself better, I do not wish to make any further suggestion than accept the sentiments expressed by the hon. the Leader of the House."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, having regard to the observations that fell from my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, viz., that the editor of the offending paper has subsequently written, though not an actual apology, an article from which an apology may be inferred, I think the best course in the circumstances is, as my friend suggested, to drop the whole matter."

III

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1927-28 -cont.

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, we are glad that, so far as this Presidency is concerned, after the Reforms were introduced, although five years of financial stringency have elapsed, we are now on the threshold of a surplus budget. We have reason to feel the hope, may I take it, the full hope of the remission of our contributions being completely released so far as our province is concerned for this year. We are now in the position of a Council with a large outstanding balance to our credit and not knowing how to dispose of it. While I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the lucid way in which he has set out the various transactions, it is really disappointing to see that there is nothing like constructive suggestion or proposal as to how to utilize the balances now available, especially in respect to our real paymasters, the villagers, the ryots, who are the mainstay of our finances. I expected, Sir, especially in the present budget, that with ideas of rural reconstruction, with ideas of rural development, something would be forthcoming from the Government, from the hon. the Finance Member and from the Ministry, as to what suggestions they have got to make with regard to the carrying out of those objects. On the other hand, Sir, what we find is a

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vague statement that we have on hand a balance to our credit; it may be that the whole amount will be required for ameliorative schemes or it may be that only a portion of it will be utilized. I take it, Sir, that the Ministry will insist for the whole of the surplus being utilized by the Transferred department, especially for the benefit and amelioration of the rural people of the country, the ryots, who stand sorely in need of help.

"Sir, it is disappointing to find that, so far as medical relief is concerned, a programme which was inaugurated during the last Ministry of bringing to the door of the villagers medical relief by starting rural dispensaries, has for some reason or other not been very well considered by the present Ministry of Public Health. Really, Sir, I do not understand why it is that the Minister for Public Health had not found it convenient to press for a further programme of starting a number of medical dispensaries for villages being added on to the budget for the next year. In answer to a question yesterday, he said that out of 309 dispensaries sanctioned, about 259 have been already started and 50 have to be started. Well, Sir, I do not know if it is his idea that no more dispensaries are necessary; but surely, it cannot be said that we are giving sufficient medical relief, and it is up to him, before we finally vote on the budget, to come forward with a proposal in the direction of sanctioning or getting the sanction of this Council for starting more village dispensaries than have been sanctioned already.

"Then, Sir, with regard to village communications, we have a set-back. We had 6 lakhs and odd of grant in 1925-26 for village roads, a portion of which was spent and the other portion of which lapsed. In the next year, we had promise of 6 lakhs, and in view of the large expenditure during the previous year, a smaller grant was given, but to-day, Sir, we stand committed in the budget to not even 6 lakhs, but to 5 lakhs. I hope the Ministry will examine the reasons for reducing even this 6 lakhs, whether the grant for the village communications for this year has not been spent and why it is that they want only 5 lakhs now. Is it the hon. Ministers' opinion that the local boards could not spend more than 5 lakhs on village communications or do they think that 5 lakhs is quite enough? I find in the manifesto issued by the Ministerialists' party published in the *Madras Mail* yesterday that they are going to initiate the work of rural reconstruction with special reference to the improvement of agriculture and the promotion of the welfare of the agricultural population and train them in the art of rural self-government. I hope, Sir, that they will stick to their words and will give greater amounts for this purpose; that they will give not 5 lakhs but 50 lakhs for the prosperity of the village ryots and for the improvement of sanitation, road communications and water-supply. At this stage, Sir, I have to make one suggestion. As a member of the Local Self-Government Advisory Committee, I suggested that the Government when they sanction grants for village roads and water-supply should see that the grants do not lapse at the end of the year and that even, the unspent balances should be carried over to next year. I hope, Sir, that if that suggestion is accepted, the taluk boards will be spared the necessity of surrendering their unspent balances. I hope that the present Ministry will profit by the experience of the past and constitute whatever is given for village roads and water-supply into a fund which would not lapse to the general balances but would be carried on from year to year.

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"Next, Sir, we find on a closer analysis of the budget, that so far as taxes are concerned, we have been taxing the people more than what is absolutely necessary for the purpose of carrying on the administration. The only reason for the enhanced taxes during the years, 1921 to 1926, was the provincial contribution. We are thankful to the hon. the Finance Member for giving us an idea of the receipts and charges of the province for the last five years, excluding provincial contributions. On page 8 of the Budget Memorandum, you will find that in 1920-1921 the revenue exceeded expenditure by 412 lakhs; in 1921-1922 by 279 lakhs, in 1922-1923 by 337 lakhs; in 1923-1924 by 359 lakhs, in 1924-1925 by 323 lakhs and in 1925-1926 by 299 lakhs; and in 1926-1927 we are going to have, according to the revised estimates, a balance of about 98 lakhs. Sir, if the annual contributions are released, we will have about 230 lakhs to our credit as the opening balance. Or, if the contributions are not to be remitted, we shall still have 66 lakhs. Is it too much, Sir, for this Council to ask, if really the Government are anxious to do something for the people of the country, that 50 lakhs should be set apart as village development fund for the purpose of helping the villagers in the matter of their communications, water-supply and sanitation? May I hope, Sir, that this appeal of mine will not fall flat on the ears of the Ministry or on the ears of the Finance Committee, the majority of elected members of whom belong to the Swarajist party who say that they would do all they can for the improvement of the village conditions, etc? (Hear, hear.) Then, Sir, so far as the revenues are concerned, we are raising to the extent of two to three crores in excess of our actual expenditure; and once the provincial contributions are removed, we will have nearly three crores of excess revenue over expenditure.

12-15

p.m.

"What is to be done with that? In the course of a few days at any rate before the close of this meeting we will be able to know whether the contribution will be completely released or not. If we be fortunate enough to get this sum of Rs. 116 lakhs released, what will be the best method of utilizing it will be the question. I have no doubt that I am discussing but a contingency which is fairly certain to happen. Sir, I suggest that from 1921-26, we have raised the taxes on court fees, stamp duties and registration and according to the budget memorandum, we find an increase of 47 lakhs under Stamps, three lakhs under Registration, thus making a total of Rs. 50 lakhs. I suggest that these duties ought to be first decreased before even we consider how to utilize the surplus. It is our duty not to tax the people more than is absolutely necessary and see that this additional taxation goes before the end of the next year. To the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs the burden of the taxpayer will be released. If there are other alternative proposals which will necessitate fresh taxation, it will be for the Council to consider the proposals on their merits. I know, Sir, that before the Finance Committee there is the question of how to substitute the loss of revenue from Excise if excise reform were to be carried on. I am sure that the Finance Committee will be able to solve it and if they come to the conclusion that any fresh taxation is necessary, I for my part and I am sure the House as well, will be willing to bear the burden sought to be imposed. But till such a proposal materialises, it is the duty of this Council to insist that the fresh taxation imposed between the years 1921-26 should be immediately given up and that the taxpayer to that extent should be relieved of his burden."

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"Then, Sir, we have got in this budget a special problem to deal with. I read in the *Mail* of last night in the editorial column: 'the towns are insistent beggars and they have special means of securing attention to their needs.' Nowhere is it more clearly exemplified than in the present budget. Look, Sir, to the Civil Works budget. Right through the whole of it, whether it is improvement in brick mortar or in other directions it is either in the metropolis or in the big towns. What about the villages? A scanty provision of Rs. 2.5 for village water-supply and 5 lakhs for rural roads. Nothing further. I ask, Sir, why this apathy for villages, why this anxiety for towns? It is necessary that there should be some sense of proportion in the manner of spending these amounts. In fact, about 18 lakhs are sanctioned for drainage schemes in towns, while a poor allotment of 2.5 lakhs is given for village water-supply. Even there, what about the distribution of this amount? We are called upon to give a three years' programme. Distributing this small amount, I believe that each taluk board will not get more than Rs. 1,000 for which small amount they are asked to give a three years' programme. Either there is a mind on the part of the Government to help the villages or there is not. If it is to be merely an eye-wash to call for a three years' programme and give us but a small provision of Rs. 1,000 for each taluk board area, I would ask what guarantee is there that the Government would give us more if a programme is sent. I request the hon. Minister to come forward with a more liberal proposal to help the villagers more than till now was the case. Again, Sir, we have got a proposal to remodel the General Hospital. About two or three years ago, I raised the same issue in this House that towns were being favoured to the prejudice of villages. I am at a loss to find out the reason why the taluk headquarter hospitals, for instance, are not given the necessary attention. Have not the Government before them a scheme that taluk headquarter hospitals should be taken up by Government so that they may become model hospitals in the several areas? I request that, before the hon. Minister commits himself to a scheme of spending 39 lakhs on the remodelling of the General Hospital, he will consider and satisfy himself that the headquarter hospitals in the mufassal are in a proper condition. In order to benefit a population of five lakhs in this city and 300 patients in the General Hospital, they have proposed an allotment of Rs. 40 lakhs to the prejudice of the 45 millions of people in the mufassal. I ask whether this is what we should do. I only hope that even if the contingency happens that at the detailed discussion the House is not able to discuss and give its definite opinion on this matter, the hon. the Minister will consider the desirability of postponing a scheme of that sort until, at any rate, the claims of the villages are met. I hope that this appeal will not fall on flat ears but will receive the attention that it deserves."

* Mr. C. OBI REDDI :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the general discussion on the budget yesterday and to-day connoisseurs on the one side and the other have been either hailing the budget as a very good one or condemning it as an ominous and reckless one. But, judging the budget from the layman's point of view, it comes to be this, Sir. The increase in the revenue this year over last year's is Rs. 77,000, while the increase in the expenditure is 106.32 lakhs. One should not grudge the increase in the revenue if it only does not throw any extraordinary burden on the taxpayers. I am afraid the taxpayer is already overburdened beyond the limits of perfect recovery. When we

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consider the expenditure side of things, I am sorry to say that the taxpayer has not got his proportionate return. Considering the question item by item, it is surprising to note that not much or even adequate compensation is afforded to him. Take, for instance, the branch of irrigation, or education, medical relief, public health or industries. I do not now propose to go into every item of these for want of time, but I propose to confine myself to only one issue, that of irrigation. Under Irrigation 15-1, a sum of Rs. 59,73,700 has been allotted while under Irrigation 15, a sum of Rs. 26,62,700 has been allotted. May I just say that this sum is quite inadequate compared to the large sum that the ryot has been contributing to the large revenues of this province? In connexion with this, I may also be permitted to state to this House that not only the sum is inadequate, but also some parts of the Presidency have been starved as it were on the side of irrigation to the benefit of others. I may particularly mention the district of Anantapur, in fact, the Ceded districts as a whole. I may perhaps be considered parochial in this respect, but I cannot help being so. I am sorry that we, inhabiting the Ceded districts, have not been so fortunate as those in Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly or Tanjore for, for the mere asking of it, they have had the Mettur project. At any rate, their struggle has not been so much and so long-standing as ours for the Tungabhadra project, for, our struggle has been raging for sixty years, even more than that I am told. The Ceded districts, I may take them as one group. The physical features of one district apply to those of another. They form as a whole a barren tract, treeless and rocky. Here and there no doubt rich black cotton soil there is, but on the whole they have been characterized by experts to be barren and unyielding. The monsoons, both the north-east and the south-west, have been conspiring as it were against these unfortunate districts. So much so that from the year 1896 there have been famines after famines even to the present day. It will not be very much for me to invite the attention of the House that within the last three decades and odd there have been no less than ten big famines in this area. In 1892 there was a severe famine, again another in 1897, a third in 1901 and 1902, perhaps quite as severe as the previous ones, and once again in 1908 and 1909. Perhaps the severest was that of 1924, when cattle died on the roadside as they were going along to the nearest hill for pasture, and people had to leave the districts to neighbouring provinces like Mysore and Bombay in search of labour. If these were years of famine, years of scarcity have intervened many a time. As a result, the resources of the average ryot have been crippled enormously and successive famine conditions have reduced the economic condition of the ryot to the lowest ebb. In these circumstances, is it not right, Sir, that this Government should lift its little finger to come to the rescue of the ryot by certain irrigation schemes which would ameliorate his conditions? The hon. the Second Minister, whom I do not see here now, and the hon. the third Minister know the conditions prevailing in the districts. They have had occasions to tour in the four districts in connexion with the drafting of the report of the Irrigation Bill Committee. And I appeal to them, Sir, to give their earnest attention to the matter. I am not guilty of exaggeration in the least when I say that there are a good lot of people in these districts who did not have a square meal a day on all the 365 days of the year. It is therefore necessary for the Government at this stage to come to the aid of these people and with their large revenues improve their economic position and provide irrigation facilities. In a Government Order, dated 25th June 1925, the Government constituted a committee called the

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Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee with the hon. the Third Minister as the President thereof. I believe the hon. the Second Minister was also a member of the committee. I believe they were asked to review the existing conditions of irrigation in the districts, to report about small schemes that were worthy of investigation and also to advise the Government whether it was desirable to concentrate the Government's attention on large schemes such as the Tungabhadra project.

"Well, Sir, for the purpose of refreshing the memory of the hon. the Second Minister and the hon. the Third Minister, I may just say that on the first question, namely, that dealing with the existing condition of irrigation in the districts, they recommended that larger maintenance grants were to be given for the minor irrigation works as they said that the appropriation of monies for those works were quite unsatisfactory hitherto. On the question of spring channels, they said that wherever it was necessary that a big irrigation work had to be undertaken, it was no good thing to the ryots to undertake those works, for the ryot was very much crippled down, but that the Government should undertake them at its own cost. But when they came to the major irrigation works, they put in various suggestions and those suggestions are contained in their final report annexed to G.O. No. 1973, Irrigation, dated the 16th December 1926. 12-30 p.m.

"Well, Sir, coming to the second point of reference, namely, to report on these small works, they said there were five minor schemes which had been investigated by them which required the immediate attention of the Government, and they also said that there were six schemes or minor irrigation which could be investigated and taken up as time permitted. Well, Sir, the Government have shelved the whole matter.

"On the third point of reference, namely, the feasibility and advisability of taking up the Tungabhadra project, they have in one voice without even a single Member dissenting said that for the amelioration of the condition of the Ceded districts it was necessary first and foremost of all that a project of the nature of the Tungabhadra project should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. But where are we now, to-day? In the report annexed to the Government Order we are told that the matter has been referred to the Executive Engineer or Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Board of Revenue and the Director of Agriculture for their reports. Well, Sir, not content with that, when on the floor of this House my hon. Friend Mr. Koti Reddi put an interpellation, the Government gave another unsatisfactory reply. This is the answer we have got from the Government Member concerned, and the answer is clear about the matter. It says that on the question of taking up the minor projects, the Government have decided not to take them up; and on the point of taking up the Tungabhadra project, the Government have said that they wait to see the report of the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. Well, Sir, in the meanwhile, pending receipt of those answers or reports from them, are we not to have even these little projects that have been recommended for adoption by the committee? And the unfortunate note of warning has been sounded by the hon. the Law Member, namely, that till the final disposal of the whole question, the primary one, the subordinate matter of minor irrigation schemes being taken up by the Government could not be attended to. Well, Sir, as I go through the Appendix III annexed to this Budget Memorandum, I find one item, item 17,

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relating to the investigation regarding the Tungabhadra project and when I read also the amount of money that has been allotted for that purpose, I see that it is a sham sum of Rs. 25,000. Compared with the grandeur of the undertaking and the magnitude of the Tungabhadra project, this very small sum of Rs. 25,000 is a meagre and microscopic one, if I may say so. These four districts have been long looking to the Government to do something to ameliorate their bad condition. These four districts may be characterised as the sick patients of this Presidency, I may say the chronic sick patients of this Presidency and they cannot afford to wait any longer”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit.”

* Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM then made the following speech:—

“1. நிலம் தர்க்காஸ்து.

“(a) நீண்ட நாள்களாக இந்தியாவில் எங்கள் (ஆதித்திராவிடர்) வகுப்பு எக்காரணத்தாலோ மிகவும் தாழ்ந்த அரசாங்கத்தார்க்கு நிலைமையிலிருந்து வருகிறது. பிரிட்டிஷ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு இந்தியாவிற்கு வந்து சுமார் நூற்றைம்பது வருஷங்களாகியும் இன்னும் நாங்கள் தாழ்ந்த நிலைமையிலேயே இருந்து வருகிறோம். நாங்கள் முன்னுக்கு வரவேண்டுமாயின், எங்களுக்கு அன்னமும், அறிவும் அவசியமானது. அன்னத்திற்குக் காரணம் நிலங்களே. எங்களுக்கு நிலங்களில்லாமையால் வேண்டிய அன்னத்தை அடைய முடியாமலிருந்தோம். ஆனால் சீர்திருத்தம் வழங்க முற்பட்ட சமீபக்காலம் தொட்டு, அரசாங்கத்தார் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் நிலங்களைத் தர்க்காஸ்து மூலம் பெறுவதற்குத் தடையாயிருந்த அண்டை கொல்லை பாத்தியமென்னும் கேது பாத்தியத்தை ரத்துசெய்து ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கென நிலங்களை ஒதுக்கிவைக்கவேண்டுமெனக் கட்டளையிட்டு ஒதுக்கிவைத்த நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு அடமானஞ்செய்து வந்தார்கள். அதற்காக யானும் எங்கள் சமூகமும் கருணை நிறைந்த அரசாங்கத்தார்க்கு நன்றி பாராட்டுகிறோம்.

“(b) சமீப காலத்தில் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட பணமுடையாலோ? வேறெக் காரணத்தாலோ? கடந்த கொடுத்த நிலங்களுக்கும் விசை வாங்கக்கூடாது. மூன்று வருஷத்திற்குள் அடமானம் செய்திருக்கும் நிலங்கள் நீர்ப்பாயக்கூடியதாயின் அடமானங்களை இரத்து செய்து நிலங்களுக்கு விலை வாங்க வேண்டுமென உத்தரவிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இலவசமாக உணவு தருவோமென விளம்பரம் செய்து ஒருவனுக்கு உணவு கொடுத்து அவன் உண்டபிறகு நீர் உண்ட உணவிற்கு விலை கொடுன்றால் அது நியாயமாகுமா? ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு நிலங்களை இலவசமாகக் கொடுத்து உடனே பயிரிட வேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவளித்தால் ஏழை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் என்ன செய்வார்கள்? நிலங்களை தமக்கு உறுதிப்படுத்திக்கொள்ள கடன்கள் வாங்கியோ மனைவி கழுத்திலிருந்த தாலியை அடமானம் வைத்தோ பணச் செலவு செய்தும் சரீர சிரமப்பட்டுப் நிலங்களைப் பண்படுத்தி பயிரிடும் நிலைமைக்குக் கொண்டுவந்த பின்னர் அதற்கு விலை வாங்குவ

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[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

தென்றால் பணம் செலவழிந்தபடியால் விட முடியாமலும், விலை கொடுக்க பணமின்மையால் அரசாங்கத்தார்க்கு சமாதானம் செய்ய முடியாமலும் ஏழை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் மனம் எவ்வாறு கொதிக்குமென்பதனைச் சொல்லவும் வேண்டுமா? (தாம் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும் ஆசனத்தைக் காட்டி) இதோ இந்த பெஞ்சு வேலை செய்யாத மரமாயிருக்குங்கால் இதன் விலை ஆறணுவாயிருக்கலாம். பெஞ்சாக வேலை செய்த பின்னர் அறுபது ரூபாய்கள் பொறுமானதாகக் காணப்படுகிறது. அதுபோல் முதலில் பத்து ரூபாய்கள் பொறுத நிலத்தை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பெற்று பணச் செலவிட்டு கஷ்டப்பட்ட பிறகு அது நல்ல விலை பெறுமான நிலைமைக்கு வருகிறது. வந்த பிறகு விலைவாங்க முயல்வதைக்கண்டு ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் திகிலடைகிறார்கள், நடுங்குகிறார்கள். எங்களுக்குள்ள அருமையான இராஜ விசுவாசத்தையும் அது கெடுக்கிறது. சாதாரணமாக எனக்குரிய ஒரு பொருளை நான் எழுத்து மூலமாக எழுதி ரிஜிஸ்தர் செய்து கொடுத்துவிட்டு, பிறகு அதை வாங்க முயன்றால் கருணை நிறைந்த அரசாங்கமே இது தவறென நியாயஞ் செய்யும். அரசாங்கத்தாரே முதலில் இலவசமாகக் கொடுத்து ஏழைகள் கஷ்டப்பட்ட பிறகு அதை வாங்க முயல்வார்களானால் இதற்கு எங்குசென்று நியாயம் கேட்பது. சிதம் பரம் தாலுக்கா வடதலைக் குளம் பு. கொளக்குடி முதலான விடங்களில் இவ்வாறு செய்ய முயல்வதாக அறிகிறேன். கொடுத்துவிட்ட நிலங்களுக்கு விலை வாங்காமலிருந்தால் எங்கள் சமூகத்தார் சந்தோஷ மடைவார்கள்.

“(c) கருணை நிறைந்த அரசாங்கத்தார் ஆதித்திராவிடர்க்கு புதுவதாக நிலங்கள் கொடுத்துவரும் இக்காலத்தில், சில வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்னரே காடுகளை அழித்து, மேடுபள்ளங்களைத் திருத்தி, சிவார்ஜிமாவாக சில ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் சில இடங்களில் பயிரிட்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி பயிரிட்டு வரும் நிலங்களுக்கும் விலை வாங்க முயன்று வருகிறார்கள். சென்ற மாதம் கடலூர் தாலுக்கா பூண்டியாங்குப்பத்தில் இவ்விதமாக பயிரிட்டு வந்துள்ள சில ஆதித்திராவிடர்களின் நிலங்களுக்காக அதிகாரிகள் நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்ததின்பேரில் யானும் எனது சகோதர அங்கத்தினர் பூண்டியாங்குப்பம் கனம் இராமச்சந்திர படையாச்சியவர்களும் கனம் தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் துரைய வர்களைக் கண்டோம். கலெக்டர் அவர்கள் விலையைச் சிறிது குறைத்துப் போடுவதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். கலெக்டர் அவர்களிடம் பேசும்போது போர்டு உத்தரவாகையால் சட்டத்தைத்திருத்த ஆங்கேயே முயலவேண்டுமென்றார்கள். ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பழமையாகவே சிவார்ஜிமாவாகப் பயிரிட்டுவரும் நிலங்களை விலைவாங்காமலே அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கும்படி உத்தரவாகப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன். இவ்வாறு பூண்டியாங்குப்பம், கடலூர், விருத்தாஜலம் முதலான விடங்களில் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

“(d) ஆதித்திராவிடர்களின் பேரை நினைந்தால் நிலங்களின் விலைகள் மிகவும் அளவு கடந்து ஏறிவிடுகின்றன. நிலங்களுக்கு அநியாய விலை போடக்கூடாது. விருத்தாஜலம் தாலுக்கா சேப்பாக்கம் என்னும் கிராமத்தில் ஓர் ஆதித்திராவிடன் சிவார்ஜிமாவாகப் பயிரிட்டு வரும் நிலத்திற்கு பக்கத்திலுள்ள நிலங்களின் விலையை

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[4th March 1927]

விட மிகவும் அதிகமான விலையைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென உத்தரவிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இது விஷயம் நடவடிக்கையிலிருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரம் தாலுக்கா சத்திவிளாகம் என்னும் ஊரில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு மனைக் கட்டுவாங்கியுள்ளார்கள். அதை பக்கத்து நிலத்தின் விலையைவிட சுமார் ஆயிர ரூபாய்கள் அதிகப்படுத்தி வாங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். சமீபத்தில் அங்கு ஒரு கான்பரன்ஸ் நடைபெற்றது. லேபர் டிப்பார்ட்மெண்டார் மனைக் கட்டுக்காக வாங்கிய நிலத்தின் பக்கத்து நிலத்தை ஒரு குடியானவர் சமீப காலத்தில் ஏக்கர் ஒன்று சுமார் நானூறு ரூபாய்கள் வீதத்திற்கு வாங்கியிருக்கிறார். லேபர் டிப்பார்ட்மெண்டார் விலையை அதிகப்படுத்தி ஆயிரத்துக்கு மேலாக வாங்கியுள்ளார்கள். இந்த அநியாயத்தை எங்கு சொல்வது? அதனை விலைமதிக்கச் சென்ற ரெவினியூ இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் முதலிய சில்லரை அதிகாரிகள் நிலத்திற்குச் சொந்தக்காரரிடம் சென்று மூக்கு பிடிக்கச் சாப்பிட்டுவிட்டு அவர்கள் சொல்லிய விலையைப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்படி செய்தவர்கள் யாரென்று கண்டு பிடித்துத் தக்கபரிகாரம் செய்தால் மேலும் அவ்வாறு நடை பெறும்விருக்கும். ஆதலால் இனி ஆதித்திராவிடர்களின் நிலத்திற்கு விலைமதிப்பிட்டாலும் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொடுக்க விலை மதிப்பிட்டாலும் மேலதிகாரிகளே நேரிவிருந்து கவனிக்கக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“(e) தற்போது ஆங்காங்கு மின்சியிருக்கும் சர்க்கார் புறம்போக்காகவுள்ள நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு எவம்போடக்கூடாது. ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருந்து இலவசமாகவே கொடுக்கவேண்டும். எவம் போட்டாலொழிய முடியாதெனக்கருதும் இடங்களையும் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கென ஒதுக்கிவைத்து, சொற்பவிலையிட்டு சிலவருஷங்களில் வசூலித்துக்கொள்ளும்படி கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். உமிகுத்தி அரிசியாகாது. ஏழைகளிடத்தில் இந்த விலை வாங்குவதால் அரசாங்கத்தாருக்குப் பெருத்தலாபம் வந்து விடாது. ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு எளிதாகத் தர்க்காஸ்தில் கொடுக்கும் நிலங்கள் பெரும்பாலும் ஓடை, அல்லது மேடு, பாதையுள்ள விடங்களாக விருக்கின்றன. அவைகள்தான் எளிதில் பெறுவதற்குரிய நிலங்கள். அவற்றைக் கொடுப்பதால் யாதொரு பயனுமில்லை. உண்டாவது பொருள் நஷ்டமும் சரீரகஷ்டமுமே பயன்படக்கூடிய நன்செய் நிலங்களைக் கூடியவரை கொடுக்கப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன்.

“2. நீர்ப்பாசன வசதிகள்.

“(a) நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி விஷயத்தில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அது விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கத்தார் பூரண அனுதாபங் காட்டவேண்டும். பெரிய மிராசுதாரர்கள் தங்கள் நிலங்களுக்கிடையே யாரேனும் ஓர் ஏழை மனிதன் நிலம் வைத்திருந்தால், தண்ணீர் விடாமலும் விளையவொட்டாமலும் தடுத்து இறுதியில் நிலத்திற்கு உரிய வரே வலிய விலைகூறும்படி செய்து நானூறு ரூபாய்கள் பொறுமான நிலத்தை நாற்பது ரூபாய்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு மேலும் பெரிய மிராசுதாரராவது வழக்கமாயிருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரம் தாலுக்கா வட கிருஷ்ண புரம் கிராமத்தின் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் புத்திசாலிகளாய் ஆளொன்றுக்கு

4th March 1927]

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ஒரு ஏக்கர் இரண்டு ஏக்கர் வீதம் சுமார் எழுபது ஏக்கர் நிலங்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு பயிரிட்டுக் கொள்வதாகக் காலங்கழித்து வந்தார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு அடுத்த கிராமத்திலுள்ள சில மிராசதாரர்கள் செட்டில்மெண்டு ரிஜிஸ்தரில் பதிவாகியும், ஏற்கனவே கிராமப் பிளானில் கண்டிருப்பதும், பட்டாவிலுள்ளதும், வழக்கத்திலுள்ளதுமாகிய பாசன வாய்க்காலைத் தடுத்து சில வருஷங்களாகத் துன்பத்திற்கு ஆளாக்கி வருகின்றனர். இது விஷயமாக எங்கள் சமூகத் தலைவர்கள் ராவ் சாஹிப் R. ஸ்ரீனிவாசம் பிள்ளை, எம்.எல்.சி., அவர்களும், ராவ் பகதூர் எம். லி. ராஜா, எம்.எல்.எ., அவர்களும் மற்றும் தலைவர்களும் நேரில் சென்று பார்த்தும் முயர்ச்சித்தும் இன்னும் வட கிருஷ்ணாபுரத்திற்கு விமோசனம் உண்டாகவில்லை.

“(b) கடலூரை யடுத்த கொண்டங்கி ஏரியின் கீழுள்ள நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பயிரிட்டுவருகிறார்கள். கொண்டங்கி ஏரி ண்டங்கி ஏரியின் கீழுள்ள பாய்ச்சல் வாய்க்கால் மராமத்து. களை மராமத்து செய்ய சில வருஷங்களாக அது காரிகள் கவனஞ் செலுத்தாமலிருப்பதால், ஆதித்திராவிட உழவர்கள் நஷ்டமடைகிறார்கள். கடவுள் கோபத்தால் மழை பெய்யாமையாலுண்டான பஞ்சம்போக, கடவுளருளால் ஜலம் கிடைத்த ஏரியின் கீழ் மராமத்து செய்யாமையாலுண்டாகும் பஞ்சத்தைத் தடுப்பது அரசாங்கத்தார் செய்யும் பஞ்ச நிவாரண முயற்சியில் முதல் வேலையல்லவா? ஆகவே உயிர்க்கு ஆதரவாயுள்ள நீர்ப்பாசன விஷயத்தில் பெரிதும் கவனஞ் செலுத்தவேண்டுகிறேன்.

“3. கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகள்.

“கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகள் ஏற்படுமுன் எங்கள் வகுப்பாருக்கு அதிக இடுக்கண்களுண்டாகவில்லை. கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளால் எங்கள் சமூகத்தார் மிகவும் கஷ்டமடைகிறார்கள். கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்து அங்கத்தினர்கள் மிராசதாரர்களே. அவர்கள் தங்கள் இஷ்டம்போல் நடவாதவர்கள் மீது வழக்குகள் கொண்டு வந்து தாங்களே தீர்ப்புச் செய்து தண்டித்து வருகிறார்கள். எங்களை நசுக்குபவர்களுக்கு மேலும் அதிகாரம் கொடுத்ததாகிறது. கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளில்லாமலிருந்தால் வழக்குகளை மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் கோர்ட்டுகளுக்கும் சிவில் கோர்ட்டுகளுக்கும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோக நேரிடும். அதனாலுண்டாம் சிரமங்கண்டு, எளிதில் வழக்கு தொடர முன்வரமாட்டார்கள். தற்போது மிராசதாரர்களிடத்திலேயே அதிகாரம் வருவதால் எளிதில் தண்டிக்க நேரிகிறது. ஆகையால் கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளை அடியோடு ஒழித்துவிடவேண்டும். அல்லது ஒவ்வொரு பஞ்சாயத்துள்ள கிராமங்களிலும் எந்தெந்த வகுப்பினர் எவ்வளவு அளவிற்கு இருக்கின்றார்களோ அந்தந்த வகுப்புக்களிலும் ஜனத்தொகைக் கேற்றவாறு வகுப்புவாரி பிரதிநிதித்துவங் கொடுத்தால் அந்தந்த வகுப்பினரும் தங்களைப் பாதுகாப்புச் செய்துகொள்வார்கள். அப்படியல்லாமல் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலையிலிருந்தால் ஏழைகளையும் ஆதித்திரா

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[4th March 1927]

விடர்களையும் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பதாகிறது. இவ்வித சம்பவங்கள் சிதம் பரம் தாலாகா காட்டுமென்றோர்கோயில், ஸ்ரீமூஷ்ணம் முதலான விடங்களில் நடைபெற்றுவருகின்றன.

“4. டோதுமான பிரதிநிதித்துவமில்லாமை.

“(a) பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டுகளில் போதுமான பிரதிநிதித்துவமின்றி ஒவ்வொரு ஆளையிருப்பதால் யாதொரு பலனும் ஏற்படவில்லை. வியவகாரத்தில் உங்கள் ஆளும் இருந்து விசாரித்தார் என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய நிலைமையேற்பட்டுவிடுகிறது. ஒரு ஆளையிருப்பதால் சொல் செல்வாக்கின்றி பாதகமாக கையெழுத்திட நேரிடுகிறது. ஆகையால் பெஞ்சு மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் கோர்ட்டுகளிலும் ஆதித்திராவிடர்க்கு அதிக இடங்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

“(b) ஜில்லா போர்டு, தாலுகா போர்டு, யூனியன் போர்டு, முனிஸிபாலிட்டி முதலான ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களிலும் ஜனத் தொகைக்கேற்றவாறு வகுப்புவாரி பிரதிநிதித்துவமேவேண்டும். ஒருவர் இருவர் ஏற்படுவதால் யாதொரு பலனும் ஏற்படவில்லை. ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு ஆதித்திராவிடர்களை நாமினேஷன் செய்யும் அதிகாரம், அந்தந்த ஸ்தாபனங்களின் பிரஸிடெண்டுகளுக்கு இருக்கக்கூடாது. ஒரு யூனியன் போர்டு தலைவர்தமது சவுக்கு மரங்களுக்குத் தண்ணீர் ஊற்றுபவனை நியமித்திருக்கிறார். ஒரு தாலுகா போர்டு பிரஸிடெண்டு தமது பண்ணையானை நியமித்திருக்கிறார். என்கேயோ ஒரு பிரஸிடெண்டு தமது குதிரைக்காரனை நியமித்திருக்கிறாரெனக் கேள்வி இவ்வாறு லோக்கல் போர்டு தலைவர்கள் செய்வதன் காரணம் தமது வேலையாளாகியிருந்தால் அங்கத்தினர் கையெழுத்து வேண்டும்போதெல்லாம் எஜமான் உத்தரவுபடியெனக் கையெழுத்திடுவார்களென்பதேயாம். அதனால் அவர்களிடப்படி நடத்தற்கேதுவுண்டாகிறது. இவ்விஷயங்களில் ஜில்லா போர்டு தலைவர்கள் தலையிடமுடிவதில்லை. தலையிட்டால் நாளைக்கு தாலுகா போர்டு தலைவர்கள் தமக்கு ஓட்டு கொடுக்கமாட்டார்களென்னும் பயம் ஜில்லா போர்டு தலைவர்களுக்குண்டாயிருப்பதேயாம். ஆகையால் நாமினேஷன் விஷயங்கள் யூனியன் போர்டு தாலுகா போர்டு ஜில்லா போர்டு முனிஸிபாலிட்டிகளின் தலைவர்கள் அபிப்பிராயப்படி செய்யாமல் ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் அவர்கள் ஆங்காங்குள்ள பதிவாயிருக்கும் சபைகளின் அபிப்பிராயங்களைத் கேட்டும் மகாநாடுகள் கூட்டி பொதுஜனங்களின் அபிப்பிராயங்களைத் தெரிந்தும் ஜனத் தொகைக்கேற்றவாறு வகுப்புவாரி பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுத்தல்வேண்டும்.

“5. படிப்பு.

“(a) கட்டாயப் படிப்பு கொடுத்தல்வேண்டுமெனச் சட்டம் செய்து வைத்திருந்தால் போதாது. அதனை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவருதல்வேண்டும். கட்டாயப் படிப்புச் சட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டுவரின் ஏழை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் தாங்கமாட்டார்கள். சாப்பாட்டிற்கு என்ன செய்வ

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தெனச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நான் சில பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள்வைத்து அனுபவம் பெற்றிருக்கிறேன். சிதம்பரம் நந்தனார் பாடசாலை மாணவர்கட்குப் பகலில் ஒருவேளை கேழ்வரகுக் கூழ் ஊற்றிவந்தேன். அப்போது நூறு பிள்ளைகளிருந்த விடத்தில் முந்தாறு பிள்ளைகள் வந்தார்கள். கூழை நிறுத்தினேன். முந்தாறு பிள்ளைகள் நூறு பிள்ளைகளாகக் குறைந்துவிட்டார்கள். பகலில் உயர்ந்த உணவு, உயர்ந்த சிற்றுண்டிகள் வேண்டியதில்லை. சுலபமாக அரையணு பொறுமான கூழ் ஊற்றினால் கட்டாயப் படிப்பை அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டுவரலாம். இந்தியா கவர்ன்மெண்டார் வஜா செய்யும் மாகாண கப்பமாகிய நூற்றறுபத்தைந்து லட்சத்தில் கட்டாயப் படிப்பு விஷயத்தில் சிறிது செலவழிக்கும்படி பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன்.

“(b) எலிமெண்டரி படிப்பு போதாது. ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி படிப்புவரை வைத்தல்வேண்டும். தற்போது ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி பாடசாலைகள். போதாதுமுறை கல்லூரிக்கு வருபவர்கள் ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி அதாவது எட்டாவதுவரை வாசித்தவர்களாயிருத்தல்வேண்டுமென ஒரு விதியிருக்கிறது. அது நல்ல நோக்கமேயானாலும் தென்னார்காடு ஜில்லாவில் எங்கள் நந்தனார் பாடசாலை யைத் தவிர, எட்டாவது வகுப்புவரை நடைபெற்றுவரும் ஆதித்திராவிட பாடசாலை வேறு ஒன்றுமில்லை. இந்த நிலைமையில் ஹையர் கிரேட் எலிமெண்டரி உபாத்திமார்கள் எங்கிருந்து கிடைப்பார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலும் எட்டாவது வகுப்புவரையிலுள்ள பாடசாலைகளை ஏற்படுத்தல் மிகவும் அவசியமாகும்.

“(c) ஒவ்வொரு தாலுக்காகளிலும் ஒவ்வொரு சக்கண்டரி பாடசாலையை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். அதில் படிப்பவர்கட்கு இலவசமாகவே உணவு முதலியன கொடுத்தல்வேண்டும். இது மிகவும் அவசியம்.

“(d) ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிலும் அவசியமாக ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்காக ஐஸ்கூல்களேற்படல்வேண்டும். தென்னார்காடு உயர்தர கல்லூரி. ஜில்லாவில் ஆறு லட்சம் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆறு லட்சம் ஜனங்களிலும் ஸ்கூல்பைனல் படித்தவர் ஒருவருமில்லை. இதைவிட எங்கள் தூர்ப்பாக்கியத்தைச் சொல்லிக் காட்டவேண்டாம். இவ்விஷயமாக அரசாங்கத்தாரைக் கேட்டால் எல்லாக் கல்லூரிகளிலும் ஆதித்திராவிட மாணவர்கள் சேர்ந்து படிக்கலாம். சட்டம் இயற்றப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. உங்களுக்கெனத் தனிக் கல்லூரிகள் வேண்டாமெனக் கூற முயல்கின்றார்கள். அதற்காக நாங்கள் நன்றிபாராட்டுகிறோம். அந்தச் சட்டத்தைச் செய்கையில் காண்பது அரிதாகவிருக்கிறது. நாங்களே வைதீகம் பராட்டுமிடங்களிலுள்ள கலாசாலைகளுக்குச் சென்று எங்கள் பிள்ளைகளைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமெனக்கேட்டால் சட்டத்திற்குப் பயந்து சேர்த்துக்கொள்வார்கள். அல்லது சாக்குபோக்கு சொல்வார்கள். அது விஷயத்தில் அழுத்தமான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் பகைமையும் மாணவன் முன்னுக்குவர முடியாத கஷ்டங்களும் ஏற்படுகின்றன. பலவித சிக்கல்களிருக்கின்றன. உயர்ந்த வகுப்பினராகிய வலிவுள்ளவர்களிடத்தில் நாங்கள் சென்று சண்டையிட்டுக்கொண்டு உள்ளதையுங் கெடுத்துக்கொள்வதை

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

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விட தனியே விரும்புவது நலமாகும். ஆதித்திராவிட மாணவர்களைச் சேர்ப்பதால் கஷ்டமுண்டாகுமென்று தோன்றும் இடங்களிலெல்லாம் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்குத் தனிப்பாடசாலைகளை அமைத்துக் கொடுத்தால் அது எங்கள் சமூகத்திற்குப் பெரிதும் பயன்படும். எங்கள் சமூகத்திற்கென ஏற்படும் கல்லூரிகளில் கூடுமானால் மற்றைய வகுப்புப் பிள்ளைகளும் சேர்ந்து படிக்கச் சொற்ப உதவி புரிந்தால் உயர் வகுப்பு மாணவர்களும் வந்து சேர்வார்கள். அதன் மூலம் சுலபமாக சமரசம் ஏற்படக்கூடும். தற்போது மகமதிய மாணவர்கட்கு தனிக் கல்லூரிகள் ஏற்படுத்தி நடத்தி வருவதைப் போல் எங்களுக்கும் நடத்திவரக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.” தலைவர் மணியடிக்க நிருத்திக்கொண்டார்.”

12-45
p.m.

MR. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has presented his budget for the year 1927-28 and he expects the Members of this House to express their opinion candidly on that subject. I am afraid I cannot help saying the fact that this budget has once again proved, that diarchy has failed in this province. From one stage to the other all that was apprehended from diarchy has come true. Because, the departments which are regarded as nation-building departments, have been neglected; and I am not sure, when the remission from the Government of India is coming, whether that amount will be utilized in feeding those departments. I have to state when speaking about this budget, how the constitution of this Council itself proves that we in this Council are not able to give effect to our own views as representatives of the people. Out of a Council of 132 there is a very large element of councillors who have always to look to the electorate, and that electorate is no other than the bureaucracy. With an element like that, and another element which has always proved to be reactionary in the matter of popular interests, we some of us who have been returned to this Council to represent the people's interests, find it impossible to really and honestly represent them in this Council. Because, when we find that we could not do justice to the people, our party would not undertake the responsibility of undertaking office. I believe and I hope I am correct that our friends of the Justice party also have now come to realize that diarchy has proved a failure.”

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Have they? No answer.”

MR. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—“ They may be imperturbable. I hope they will never on any future occasion go anywhere near those benches.”

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I see, even if they get a chance? ”

MR. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—“ We have seen that diarchy has proved a failure. Now, Mr. President, with a constitution like that to which the Executive Council of the Government of Madras is not responsible, how under circumstances like these, can the representatives of the people say they have come here in the hope of doing justice to the people of this Province? Not under this system can we ever hope to do justice. Until and unless we effect the necessary reform, and when provincial autonomy is given to this province, we can never hope to put into effect so many things we have to do, in order to raise the people of our province to a position where they will not have the sufferings under which they are now labouring. Mr. President, we know we recently had a big discussion on the subject of the famine that is prevalent almost everywhere in this province. What are these famines for? The

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Government of Madras, I say the executive department of the Government of Madras, has to take upon its shoulders the entire responsibility of famine that is prevalent throughout the length and breadth of this province. Because, if they had in the former years taken the necessary precautions, certainly these famines could have been avoided. Mr. President, famines are not the only hardships the people of this Province are suffering from. In addition to famines, they are overburdened with indirect taxation. In any country where we obtain a popular Government, the only alternative under a famine condition the Government would suggest, is to reduce taxation to give relief to the famine-stricken people and to the district, whereas in our province we find that the case is otherwise. We find that taxes have been increasing, and side by side with taxation expenditure has also been increasing. I am ashamed to state here that ever since the reforms have come into existence, the expenditure of this province has increased by nearly 6 crores. Is this not a state of affairs over which the representatives of the people bring this Government to realize that they are not doing justice to the people of this province. Mr. President, how has this increase come into existence? Is it for the sake of efficiency or has this enormous increase of 6 crores brought about a proportionate amount of material advantage to this Presidency? No, I say emphatically no. Because to-day there are millions in our province who go with half a meal a day and some of them go without a meal. What has this increase in the expenditure of the province done to relieve the distress of the people of this province? Mr. President, the Government of this province has failed in discharging their duty in the fundamentals. The first thing that I would refer to is education. What has the Government done to spread elementary education from one end of the province to the other? Well, it is no doubt true that very many buildings have come into existence. Large buildings are constructed in every town and every village if I may say so. But their idea of education stops with buildings and buildings alone. If we go and examine the quality of the education that is imparted it is not only not utilitarian but it is not the right sort of education.

“ Because it does not tend to the little children acquiring the knowledge that is necessary for them, and it does not enable them to prosecute higher studies if they have to go and join the higher classes. Both qualitatively and quantitatively the education of this province has been a failure. I hope the Education Minister, who is a popular Minister, of course under the circumstances in which he is placed to-day, will try his utmost to see that a real and genuine popular education is given to the people of this province. If he fails to do it, I am sure he will not sit in that seat a moment longer. 1 p.m.

“ Mr. President, I should draw the attention of the Education Minister to two or three standing scandals in this Presidency. One of them is the Law College. It is high time that the whole system of legal education is reorganized. I know that the ex-Minister thought it was a great achievement on his part to have reduced the strength of full-time assistant professors and secured professors and assistant professors who can give a certain number of hours of their time to the Law College. I am afraid that that system has failed and failed miserably. I hope very soon the hon. the Minister for Education will see that that college is reorganized.

“ Mr. President, the ex-Minister has earned the reputation of having pursued a policy of step-motherly attitude towards the Muslim community. I shall cite one or two instances alone here to prove the fact. One of them

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is the way in which the concession that the poor Muslim students were enjoying for a number of years was taken away from them with the result that many a student had to give up his studies, and besides that, they had to resort, in order to get that concession, to methods which are not at all self-respectful. Has the ex-Minister thus done justice to the Muslim community?

"Again, Mr. President, the ex-Minister more than once attempted to abolish that only college, the Muhammadan College, in the City. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: 'No.') Well, Sir, I know, as a matter of fact, such attempts were made. But for the strong representation from the Muslim community that was made, he would have seen that that college was abolished. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: Wrong.) Well, Sir, that was so. I assert it and assert it as emphatically as I can that that was the case." (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: "Hear, hear.")

* Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—"Mr. President, Sir, whether this budget is a minus budget, as the hon. the Finance Member has said, or whether it is a plus budget, as certain hon. Members would have us believe, it is a satisfactory budget for the reason that it indicates to us that a provincial contribution is to be removed. It is also a very satisfactory budget in that it provides for the Mettur and Pykara schemes. Sir, there has been a cry that famine is devastating this country. If anything can be accomplished in the direction of removing famine, it is by the Mettur project. Yesterday, we heard much said about Indianization. Are we not to appreciate the benefits that flow from Indianization. It is to the credit of the present hon. the Law Member that he has taken up such a bold position that the Mettur project and the Pykara scheme are being carried through. So far as the Pykara scheme is concerned, I notice that recently a special officer has been put on duty to ascertain whether the supply of current from the scheme will be fully utilized. I am confident that there was no necessity for such a special officer being appointed. That the supply will create demand there is no doubt, and it will be rather that the Pykara scheme will not be able to supply sufficient current, than that there will not be demand for the current from that scheme. I will give one instance that the supply will create the demand. Take the municipality of Ootacamund. A few years ago that Council entered into a contract with the Cordite Factory to supply $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs units of current to the municipality at the rate of As. 1-6. That municipality has come to exceed that maximum and is even prepared to take a million units at twice the price and when a municipality like that of Ootacamund can take a million units, or one per cent of the production at Pykara, what need is there for any further investigation as supply and demand? That scheme should go on and go on at once. It is certainly to the credit of the hon. the Law Member that he has pressed forward these schemes, and I hope that this House will see, Irrigation Bill or no Irrigation Bill, that the Mettur and Pykara schemes are not shelved or even delayed, for, in years to come they will greatly swell the revenue of this province, and immortalize the term of office of the present Law Member.

"Then, Sir, I have a few words to say as regards Anglo-Indian education. Yesterday, it was very ably set out that the Muslim community would be deprived of education if the medium of education was the vernacular. This system of education is greatly affecting our community, and at Ootacamund we find a large number of Anglo-Indians deprived of their education in

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consequence of this provision. Yesterday, on behalf of the Indian Christians also we heard that a certain order of the Government deprived them of the advantage of education, and that for being a Christian they should either lose their education or they should pay higher fees.

"There is one question which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this Council, and that is the question of the Todas. The Government has recently appointed a specialist to enquire into the causes of the extinction of the Todas on the Nilgiris. May I appeal to the hon. the Minister in charge that this may not stop at the point of investigation and that something real will be done to prevent the extinction of this ancient race?

"Next, Sir, I have to complain of a recent order of Government in the Medical department. In pursuance of a resolution of this Council in 1916, Government undertook to provide half the expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries maintained and opened by local bodies. During the last two months, Government has stopped further grants to these hospitals and dispensaries and the Minister has said that this order is going to be revised. Now, Sir, may I ask when this order is to be revised and what is going to happen to the local board and municipal dispensaries during the period the revision of the order is taking place? Sir, may I also bring to the notice of the House the attitude the Government is adopting towards the Lawley Hospital of Coonoor? This hospital has never been put on a stable financial footing. The Lawley Hospital is run on a scale far in excess of the municipal requirements of Coonoor and the municipal authorities are asked to provide the necessary funds with the result that the Council in the ninth month of a year turns the patients out of the hospital and closes its doors. This happened only a month ago. I am glad to say that it has been temporarily reopened, and I appeal to the hon. the Minister to see that the occasional closing of this hospital is put a stop to, and an annual grant is made to the institution.

"Then, Sir, I will come to the question of prohibition. The other day I noticed in the press that the Minister for Excise had said that not even 5 per cent of the population of this Presidency wanted prohibition. May I remind him that out of a population of 40,000 Badagas of the Nilgiris almost the whole of them presented a petition that no liquors should be made available to them in the taverns, and that in response to it the previous Ministry gave us a sort of partial prohibition on the Nilgiris. Those who have known the position of these people five years ago and their position to-day will see what great benefit has accrued to the hill tribes of the Nilgiris. ('Hear, hear.') All that we are asking for is the closure of the arrack shops. There is a very copious supply of beer on the Nilgiris, the breweries there supply the whole Presidency, and we are watching with very great anxiety whether the Excise Minister is going to close the arrack shops in the Nilgiri district. He cannot say that it is too late, as the auctions have taken place. We brought this matter to his notice in very good time and we have taken a promise from him that, if necessary, the contracts will be cancelled and that they will be cancelled even if the auctions had taken place. I will ask for the help of this House in pressing that at least in the one district of the Nilgiris the arrack shops will be closed, and I earnestly note this House will support me in this matter." (Hear, hear.)

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* Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, one feature of the budget which appears to me noteworthy is the enormous scale on which liabilities are sought to be undertaken in it not only for this year but for the years yet to come. Even to a point of recklessness, as the hon. the Finance Member himself says, are commitments being made for a series of years by this budget. He has warned us, with a characteristic frankness and fairness, against being misled by the modest budget provisions of this year and has told us that behind these modest provisions lie concealed huge commitments for future years. If these commitments were for services which are really claimant, then we would certainly welcome this recklessness on his part. We would even wish that he were more reckless than now. But going through the long catalogue of the proposed new works, we find many that are not of this description.

“ From the proceedings of this Council during previous years I find, Sir, that year after year hon. Members of this Council have complained—and quite justifiably too—that the Government have been lavishing all their generosity on institutions in and around the City of Madras, (hear, hear), while the rural services were being starved almost to death. In spite of these lamentations of the hon. Members, we find again that, even in this year of such reckless generosity and liberality, the same sad story is being repeated. It is the General Hospital, which is a few yards away from the Fort Saint George, that again catches the eye of the Government; but the sad moan of the villager does not reach them yet. It does reach us, Sir, and pierces through our hearts. We are here as representatives of the people and it will not do for us to sit here voting their money for purposes which do not benefit them. A sum of 39 lakhs is proposed to be spent on the remodelling of an existing institution in Madras while there are yet hundreds of villages without roads, without water-supply and without dispensaries. A note was circulated among us at the last meeting of this Council when the Government threatened us with a motion for a supplementary grant for this remodelling scheme. In that note, beyond the mere assertion that the scheme is an urgent and important one and that the Government are anxious to rush it through we do not find a word of explanation as to how it was urgent and important; we do not find a word of argument to support the statement. All that they tell us is ‘we are anxious to undertake this work and we have chosen this year of grace—1927—for that purpose; give us the money that we want.’ That is all we find in the note that was circulated to us.

“ While we turn to the rural services we find that they are again receiving the same niggardly treatment as before. For rural communications the sum allotted is 5 lakhs. For rural water-supply, as the hon. Member for Chittoor has pointed out, it is an absurdly small sum of 2.5 lakhs that has been provided. As for rural dispensaries little or nothing has been provided for. Turning to page 110 of the Budget Memorandum I see that only four rural dispensaries are going to be opened in the year 1927-28; probably there may be concealed behind some other budget provision more rural dispensaries, because I understood the hon. Minister in charge of the subject to say yesterday that more dispensaries were going to be opened in 1927-28. I am sure that if only four dispensaries were intended to be opened he would not have made that statement.

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"It was in the year 1925 that the then Chief Minister, the Raja of Panagal, inaugurated the scheme of grants to local bodies for works of rural development. A sum of 6.25 lakhs was given for rural communications and a similar sum for rural water-supply. The grants were given rather late in the year 1925—I believe it was in September—and there was also a condition super-imposed that local bodies receiving the grants ought to find from some source or other a sum equivalent to the grant they received from the Government. Though working under these adverse conditions, I am glad to say that the local bodies did splendidly well in utilizing these amounts. To borrow again from the hon. the Finance Member a very good expression which he used in the course of his speech, the digestive apparatus of local bodies was found quite suitable for digesting this particular kind of food that they got from the Government. In fact the complaint of the Government seems to be that they swallowed and digested more than they were expected to do, for we find it stated in more than one place in the Budget Memorandum that the disbursements out of the grants in 1925-26 exceeded all their anticipations.

"In 1926-27 the grant made was much less than in the previous year and this year while we were all expecting a very liberal grant the provision made is grossly inadequate. The need for the improvement of rural communications is indeed very great throughout the province. Even in my district of Tinnevely, which cannot be said to be a backward one, there are areas in which the only convenient means of transport is the primitive pack-bull. There are yet other areas in which even walking from one village to another in the rainy season is a matter of great difficulty. Any system of administration in which such a state of things is allowed to continue must be ashamed of itself. I can assure the hon. Minister that if he makes the grants in time this year and without any exacting conditions super-imposed as before, local bodies can be trusted to spend not 5 lakhs but ten times that amount during the year. Construction of rural roads is not a matter of great difficulty. We do not want the sanction of the Superintending Engineer for the purpose—a sanction which takes months and years to get as we all know. We have only the overseer and the maistris on whose services we have to depend and they are amenable to our discipline but not the Superintending Engineer. Let the hon. Minister give the 50 lakhs and see whether our digestive apparatus is not strong enough to digest the whole of it. If we fail, of course it is open to him to take back all the money.

"Whatever amount the Government might give I would request them to give it without adding the condition that the local bodies must find an equivalent amount. I am sorry to have to say that most of our local bodies have already exhausted the three resources usually employed for finding money, viz., begging, borrowing and stealing. To demand of them an equivalent sum now would be to deny them the grant.

"Coming to water-supply the provision made is 2.5 lakhs. Dividing this sum among the 128 taluk boards of this Presidency and again sub-dividing it among the revenue taluks of each taluk board the net result will probably be enough not even to dig one well but only a fraction of it. It does not require any argument from me to convince anybody that to have a fraction of a well is no good to any one. The proverb is well known that the man who jumps over a fraction of a well is gone.

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“With regard to rural dispensaries the amount given is almost nothing: the present system inaugurated by the late Chief Minister can easily be mended and made an excellent one. If instead of the Rs. 33-5-4 now given to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon the Government pay them Rs. 50 the scheme will become quite attractive. In these days of unemployment it will not be a matter of difficulty to find Sub-Assistant Surgeons for Rs. 50 for these dispensaries.

“As the time before me is short I propose to deal with one or two points of local importance to us without making any further observations of a general character. Our district is in the extreme corner of the Presidency and it does not catch the eye of the Government; just in the same way as the hon. Members at the extreme ends of this House might have found it difficult to catch the eye of the President. The river Tambraparni flowing through our district is a perennial one and its potentialities have not been tapped yet. The scheme relating to the Papanasam Storage Reservoir has been long in the air—perhaps for as many years as the Mettur Project itself. Now that the Mettur Project has been sanctioned and will become an accomplished fact soon, may I ask the hon. Member in charge to undertake the investigation of our scheme? If the people under the Mettur Project say that his name is going to be immortalized by that project may I too prophesy, with equal claims to do so, that if he inaugurates the Papanasam scheme his name will go down to posterity washed of all its sins?

“The Tuticorin harbour muddle has, however, not added another feather to the hon. Member's cap. Of this scheme even the *Madras Mail*—a paper not usually known to indulge in any irresponsible or ill-informed criticisms of Government and its measures though it may have an occasional fling at our President—says: ‘What they (the merchants of Tuticorin) are offered at present is a big hole in the sea near the shore with an approach to that hole from the open sea.’ This is the scheme which the Government experts have adumbrated and which is sought to be thrust on the merchants of Tuticorin. I am glad to see, however, that in this case the voice of Tuticorin has reached the ears of the Government and that the hon. Member in charge proposes to go and see things for himself. It is needless for me therefore to go into any details about the scheme at this stage. I need only appeal to the hon. Member that if as a result of his visit to Tuticorin he too discovers only a profitless big hole there, any undue regard for the prestige of the Government or considerations of that kind ought not to be allowed to stand in his way of dropping the scheme with all possible grace.

“Speaking of the Tuticorin harbour I am reminded of an undertaking given by the hon. Mr. Graham in 1925. While opposing the private Bill brought for amending the Port Trust Act so as to give representation to the Indian Chamber of Commerce he gave an undertaking that if the Chamber showed any signs of vitality he would bring an amending Bill himself in October or November of that year. I may tell this House, Sir, that the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Tuticorin is showing as vigorous signs of vitality as this hon. House itself. Is it too much then, Sir, to expect the hon. Member, who is now in charge and who has inherited the obligation to redeem the undertaking of his predecessor, to bring forward a Bill of his own and thus inspire, in the minds of the public and the hon. Members of this House, greater confidence in undertakings given on the floor of this House

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by the hon. Members of Government? Notices of private Bills for this purpose have already been given but I hope that the hon. Member of Government will not drive the Members of this House to the necessity of piloting a private Bill through for this purpose.

“One more point. We have a grievance about our Women and Children’s Hospital. The hon. Minister in charge of Public Health was good enough to inspect the hospital and told us that it was more or less settled that the Government should take up its management. Our Headquarters Hospital consists really of two portions, one for women and children and the other for men. The portion for men having been taken up it is only just and proper that the other portion also should be taken up by Government.”

The House rose for lunch.

After Lunch (2-15 p.m.).

* MR. A. KALESWARA RAO :—“Mr. President, there is nothing for me in the Budget to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for framing and presenting it. It is framed in the usual bureaucratic style. It does not disclose any bold policy or imagination. It does not disclose either national economy or sense of responsibility to the people of this province from whose taxes alone this Government is maintained and whose prosperity, progress and welfare ought to be the sole criterion in framing a budget. I cannot congratulate the Ministers either. I know they are the junior partners in a partnership where the Reserved Side is the dominant partner. They cannot, as representatives of the people, dictate to the other side. Their position is not a self-respecting one. By going through the budget, my conviction that the reforms are illusory and that diarchy is unworkable has been deepened.

“Before going through particular items of the budget, I will refer to the reduction or the remission of provincial contribution. The hon. the Finance Member has not only grown jubilant over the proposed remission of the provincial contribution but also expects our representatives in the Legislative Assembly to accept the budget of Sir Basil Blackett and get remission. Of course, the contribution to the Government of India from this poor province is a very heavy burden and we feel the sense of injustice done to us by Meston’s Award. But national questions of far greater importance ought not to be ignored simply for the sake of getting a remission in provincial contributions. For instance, the national demand is of far greater importance than this provincial question. If our representatives in the Assembly chose to reject the budget of Sir Basil or cut down many portions of it because the Government of India have not satisfied the united demand made by the nation through the Legislative Assembly, I must say that they are justified in doing so.

“Secondly, there is the question of ratio—the 18d. per rupee ratio. This ratio is highly prejudicial to the interests of Indian manufactures and Indian agriculture. I cannot expect our representatives in the Assembly to accept the 18d. ratio for the sake of getting the provincial contribution remitted. (Mr. J. A. Saldanha : ‘Hear, hear’.) The Congress Committee after very careful consideration has declared itself against the 18d. ratio. Subject to all these safeguards, if we get remission of our contribution, we must certainly

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welcome it. Probably, by certification or by some other means, we may get the remission after all and then we will have a surplus of 2 crores and odd in our budget in the coming year. From a cursory study of the budget, it is clear that the notorious fact that the Anglo-Indian administration of our country has established a very costly machinery is well-founded. After the advent of the British Government, India has become famous for two things—for becoming poor and for getting the most costly administration in the whole world. Our country presents the spectacle of the poorest country, having the most costly administration. The Reforms have not changed the nature of the costly administration. By reading the figures given in the budget abstract by the hon. the Finance Member, we find that, since the introduction of the Reforms, there has been an increase of one crore and twenty-nine lakhs of rupees in the revenue collected from the people. Revenue is collected by taxing the poor people of our country. Now, how has it been spent? There has been an increase in the expenditure on the administration side to the extent of 136 lakhs, representing pay of officers, allowances, pensions and charges connected with the administration. This shows that, if we are able to collect more money, we spend more money on the administration charges. It is not domestic economy. That is not what a householder would do. That is not what any person who lives in his house, who is in charge of the house and who is responsible for the welfare of the inmates thereof would do. Administration charges should be treated as an item of least importance and the major portion of the income ought to be spent on nation-building departments like education, sanitation, public health, rural reconstruction, etc. When the expenses on the administration side increase to 136 lakhs, those on the transferred departments side increased only by about 75 lakhs. That reveals the nature of the Anglo-Indian administration that we have.

“There is another feature in the administration. The administration is topheavy. It can only be compared to a man, with big head and big shoulders having lean legs. The white bureaucrats and the brown bureaucrats take the largest salaries in the world and yet the Lee Commission came to consider their alleged grievances and granted them more allowances; while the poor village talaiyaris, vettis, village reddies and karnams, and elementary school masters suffer. Nobody cares for these ill-paid people. On the other hand, in the pay of the karnams and village munsifs there has been a reduction of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 while in the pay of the talaiyaris and vettis, the poorest of the Government servants, there has been a cut of annas eight. It seems there is a recent Government Order proposing to cut down still further the pay of the village officers in proprietary estates. In that way things are going on. I expected that the Ministers at least would take less salary and set an example to the future Ministers, I mean the Ministers at the time of the advent of Swaraj. I expected that they would take something like Rs. 2,000 or 2,500 a month only. But I find that provision has been made for their full pay (Rs. 5,333-5-4).

“Now, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the repressive policy still pursued by them. My reference to it is relevant on this occasion because there is the dictum redress of grievances before supply. My hon. Friend Mr. Madhavan Nayar has spoken about the non-release of Mr. Narayana Menon in spite of the unanimous resolution of this Council. My friend, the Mussalman brother, spoke about the refusal of the Government

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to abandon the scheme of colonizing the Andamans with Mappilla women and children in spite of the resolution to that effect passed by this House. The Government is impervious to public opinion; not only to public opinion outside but also to the resolutions passed by this very House. To-day we find from the answers given by the hon. the Home Member that Mappilla prisoners instead of being brought from the Andamans to our shores in accordance with the resolution passed by this House, are still being sent there with their women and children. Their voluntarily going there is a bunkum. Why not bring all these prisoners to Indian jails and be treated as political prisoners. Mappillas are, after all, political prisoners, Punjabis still in prisons are political prisoners, Narayana Menon is a political prisoner. The question of the grant of special treatment to political prisoners was brought before the House some years back and it has not yet been solved by the Government.

"Sir, even in jails there is still racial distinction. A European thief is allowed to sit in a chair while an Indian thief is asked to pull the punkah for him. There is still racial discrimination and it is a national humiliation.

"I wish to bring to the notice of the House a case of repression of a milder nature but of a far more important character. And if the facts of the case I am going to relate are true then, the whole land revenue should be voted against. Referring to this matter I have given notice of a starred question and also a resolution. The question has not yet appeared in the agenda. By a district gazette notification published in February 1924, 209 acres and odd of lands belonging to non-co-operators (all congressmen) were removed from the ayacut of the Kistna eastern delta. Those lands were under authorized wet cultivation and single water rates were being collected. Naturally the owners had spent a lot of money for converting them from dry to wet and those lands were included in the ayacut in the years 1920 and 1921. In 1924, suddenly without assigning any reason, simply because the owners of those lands were wearing khaddar and belonged to the Congress party, the Collector of the district, excluded them from the ayacut and charged penal assessment, I am told that on some of those lands even 20 times penal assessment has been levied this year, i.e., at Rs. 100 per acre. I know some of them. There is one man by name Nookula Veeraraghaviah, a Kapu by caste, who was levied penal assessment. Of course, there is no distinction made between Brahmans and non-Brahmans in the matter of repression. This Kapu gentleman had 58 acres and odd and all those lands have been thrown out of the ayacut. The great crime that this man committed is that he resigned his village munsifship and became a congressman. Throwing out of ayacut such a large area as 58 acres means confiscation of lands worth from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,500 per acre in the Kistna delta. I am not exaggerating."

* Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to congratulate the hon. Finance Member for the lucid exposition with which the budget for the next official year is presented to this House. The memorandum appears to be a ready reckoner and makes easy to understand the various heads referred to in the main volume. I feel special praise is due to the hon. Member for getting a substantial remission from the Provincial contribution which has brightened the financial stand-point of the Presidency. I would therefore suggest, a large portion of the population, the depressed classes, are labouring under very many disabilities, that the hon. Members of the Government should reserve a substantial portion of the remission to remove the various disabilities

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and penalties under which they labour and to improve the condition of the depressed classes. I need not go into the depressed condition of this community caused by the famine now prevailing as it has already been dealt with by several hon. Members. The village officers especially the talaiyaris and vettis are receiving very meagre pay which is hardly enough to keep body and soul together; I think the time is come to take up the question of the improvement of the rural areas which are inhabited by depressed classes.

"Sir, another grievance that exists is the very meagre representation of the depressed classes in the Government service. Time and again our representatives have been pressing in this House for a better state of affairs but there has been no proper response. The latest administration report reveals the smallest number of the depressed class members who serve in the Government departments and this number does not stand comparison with their population and the general reason advanced is want of educational qualifications and one wonders how this could be surmounted when the community is so backward economically. To remedy this state of affairs it is high time that the existing scholarships and stipends are doubled in number to give scope to a large number of students to qualify themselves educationally and to compete for services. Until then I am of opinion that special exemptions must be granted to the members of this community. It is necessary that a hostel similar to the one existing in Madras has to be opened in Chidambaram or in its vicinity to afford facilities for students from the southern districts. A similar hostel for girls at Madras will go a long way to improve the condition of the community.

"Another important factor that stands in our way is the drink evil. The evil of having taverns and toddy shops near the depressed classes hamlets has wrought untold miseries in their life. I am sure the hon. Minister in charge of Excise portfolio will turn a new leaf and afford protection to these unfortunate people so that their economic condition may be improved. Total prohibition is, I think, the key note for the advancement of the community that have stood starvation and suffering for centuries.

"Strange things are happening with regard to the grant of lands to the depressed classes. I understand that orders have been passed cancelling free grant of wet lands to them. It will be very hard to ask the people to give the value of the lands given to them some years ago or to quit the lands. I have heard of cases where families mortgaged their jewels and improved the lands. If they are asked to leave their lands, I need not depict the sad picture.

"Another factor is that the agricultural labour—generally members of the depressed classes—which are employed by the landlords are given low rate of wages. This is a state of affairs which exists in no other country. The time has come when the Labour department must look to these things and arrange for fixity of minimum wages for these poor people so that their economic condition may be improved. In the budget there is provision for the appointment of a Personal Assistant to the Labour Commissioner. As this House knows, the Labour department is the department which deals with all matters concerning the depressed classes, and this post must be set apart to a depressed class member. As a Member representing the depressed classes I may point out that this will go a long way to help the depressed classes.

"Now coming to the question of village communication and sanitation I think that a greater percentage of allotment must be reserved for their

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improvement. I know of many villages where there are no good communications. Sanitation in villages is worse. It should be improved by utilising a larger amount for hospitals and dispensaries. If the dispensaries happen to be near the dwelling places of the depressed classes, their condition would improve.

"Another point. Government grant money for the establishment of libraries provided local bodies are willing to bear half the cost. In the case of depressed classes the entire cost must be met by the Government as the opening of libraries will have much educative value.

"Our representation in the local boards are still inadequate, and here and there influential people to serve their own interests are trying to snatch away our seats, and I am sure the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government will be alert on this important matter.

"We must have special panchayats as, at present, in many places caste predominates over justice.

"In conclusion I appeal to the Government Members both of the Reserved half and Transferred half to make a thorough investigation into the various disabilities under which the depressed classes are labouring and to set apart a substantial amount for their betterment."

* Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, conscious as I am of the powerlessness of this House to change the scheme of the budget, I shall make an endeavour to indicate the directions in which the budgetted revenue may be reallotted in useful directions and to offer certain criticisms. The City of Madras presents problems of its own both as the headquarters of the Presidency and by itself. The biggest institution here which affects not only the destinies of the citizens of Madras but also of the whole of the Madras Presidency in the most vital manner is the High Court of Judicature. There have been various controversies regarding the work turned out by the High Court, and one important question that is raised is the strength of the High Court in relation to the clearing of its arrears. Opinions have been different as to whether there is enough of arrears in that institution to justify the appointment of what are called temporary Judges. The appointment of temporary Judges is an unmixed evil. It mars the independence that must necessarily be expected of this highest Court in this part of the land. There is no disputing the position that sooner the institution of temporary Judges is done away with, the better for all concerned. In that connexion we will have to consider the question of arrears. It is reported that the arrears are growing constantly never showing any decrease. Like the poor, it threatens to be there always. There is difference of opinion as to the root cause of this state of affairs. Some people think that thorough investigation is necessary. Various committees have been appointed to go into this question. It will be more useful and more to the point if this Council which is asked to vote for the salaries of the additional temporary Judges, looks into the matter itself and sets at rest once for all the necessity or otherwise of the continuance of the temporary judges. The contributories to the accumulation of arrears are due, according to one opinion, to the existence of a Bar which goes thoroughly into each case and wants to present every point of its view and naturally some time is taken up. As it is the litigant public who furnish the gist for the machine to work they have to be given the necessary opportunities of representing their case. They have to be given their rights in as perfect a manner as the circumstances would permit.

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"In this direction certain attempts have been made by the hon. the Judges to solve this problem. Taking into account, from their point of view, of the paucity of a sufficient number of Judges, they brought about an innovation, an experiment as they would call it, by introducing the system of posting second appeals and Civil Court appeals, before a single Judge. That has resulted in further accumulation of work ('hear, hear') and the experiment has been unhappy in that it has ended in an addition to the already accumulated arrears. The statistics of the Civil Courts gives these figures: 'The number of Letters Patent appeals (other than Original side appeals) filed was 299 against 181 in 1924, and 42, the average for the preceding quinquennium. The increase is largely explained by the experiment of having City Civil Court appeals and second appeals tried by a single Judge. The number disposed of was 177 against 79 in the previous year and the arrears rose from 128 to 250.' So, I said the experiment has not been happy and not only unhappy in point of reduction of arrears, but also unhappy in giving more trouble to the parties and higher charges to the litigant public. Instead of having to take the cases to a single court, it has now given them the agony of taking them to two courts, with the necessary increase in court fee stamps and increase in other legal charges and also the prolongation of the agony for another year or so. When an unfortunate litigant has to litigate in regard to a piece of land worth about Rs. 100, at the end of the case, the cost will be ten times almost that amount. In due time, I will press for the consideration of the House a resolution, which I have tabled, for the institution of a committee to enquire into these arrears with a view to reduce those arrears. If necessary, the House may also take into consideration the question of transforming the temporary judgeships into permanent judgeships to as large a number as is necessary and be done with the matter once for all. In this connexion, I may also urge the idea that was never put into practice for a very long time now, of deputing one of the High Court Judges to inspect the mufassal courts. Complaints are now and then heard that things are not as they ought to be in the mufassal courts. Of course, Sir, the subordinate judiciary is subjected to periodical inspections by the District authorities, but in their turn, the latter are left undisturbed, and the complaint is that all the mufassal courts including the highest in the district ought to be subjected to inspection and proper regulation. I would urge, in that behalf, that the question of the strength of the High Court Bench must be considered when the whole question is taken up for consideration.

"Another question connected with the High Court is the question of the Registrar. The Registrar of the High Court is a very important person, because it is he who regulates the work in the High Court. The Judges have, as it were, to automatically sit and go through the work put before them and the Registrar is practically the ruler of the High Court. It has been accepted by the Treasury Bench and by the hon. the Law Member that when an opportunity comes, this question of appointing a Registrar from among the most experienced of the legal practitioners would be taken up. It may be pointed out that more than two occasions have occurred; but this pious hope that we were all along having was never fulfilled. The one reason I urge for this course is this: Eminent and able administrators they may claim to be, and I concede they are, for the moment; but the thing that really matters in regard to the High Court is a deeper knowledge of the matters that are put up for disposal before the High Court Judges. A practitioner will know on the mere look

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into the papers what the matters are, and he can arrange things in such a manner that the Judges can deal with them in a succinct form in the best manner possible. Without deprecation, I can safely say that the recruitment at present made is not conducive, from the point of qualification, of previous experience of the recruits to enable the Registrar to put the matter in the best possible manner. I would therefore urge upon the hon. the Law Member to give his attention, almost immediate attention, to the question of the appointment of a Registrar from among the experienced practitioners of the High Court.

"Incidentally, I may say that the printing charges and the court fees that are now being collected are on a more excessive scale than on the desired scale. Special attention may be given to this point that the incidence of the fees is more upon the rural population than upon the City of Madras; and the proportion with regard to the City is far much lower than what it is with regard to the litigants that come to Madras from the mufassal and seek relief in the highest court of the province.

"Another matter is that the accommodation in the High Court buildings is not enough to cope with the increasing work, and the proposed scheme of building a Small Cause Court building need not be unnecessarily delayed. I understand that the military bogey is again coming in between the proposal for the new building"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It has gone away."

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR:—"Thank you. So we can therefore have more fresh air about the High Court buildings.

"Coming now to the administration of the Police department, Sir, I have no congratulations to offer to the Commissioner of Police. The city burglaries that have been disfiguring the state of things in Madras do not redound to his credit. One of the officers of this very Legislative Council has been the victim, and the Police have not yet been able to trace out the culprits; and if there is any solitary instance where the culprits have been traced, more instances occur in the best-regulated parts of the city where night after night systematised burglary is going on and not a single detection has been made. Only a few have been casually detected. If the vigilance of the City Police had been up to the mark, this state of things could not have continued and ought not to continue. Then, Sir, in regard to the motor bus traffic, it has been one of the worst evils, a plague as it were, in the city, and nothing has been done in respect of the various promises made that there would be a law, that there would be more additional police to regulate the bus traffic and such other things. But nothing has been done so far in the way of regulating the speed, and it is almost an imminent danger to the passengers treading our city streets.

"Another important matter which affects the city welfare is the Corporation of Madras. It has been pointed out, Sir, ever so often, that the administration of the Corporation affairs is in the hands of a gentleman who was thrust *willy nilly* into the Corporation building. He owes no allegiance to the President or to the Council who are charged with the administration of the Corporation affairs. We have been seeing the unseemly wrangles that have been going on between the Council and the Commissioner of the Corporation. Recently it has been unearthed that this gentleman, in defiance of precedent and law, has been corresponding with the Assistant Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department, not even the Secretary, and that over

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the head of the President, although the President happens for the time being to belong to that party with whom this Commissioner is said to be in sympathy. An amendment of the City Municipal Act must have come from the Treasury Bench; but as unfortunately it is not forthcoming, I may say that the sooner that legislation is taken up the better will it be for all concerned."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, Members on the other side of the House say that it is useless to have this discussion because they point to some grave constitutional defects. We on this side of the House are also aware of the great fundamental defects under which we are suffering now. We are at one with them in our demand for autonomy (hear, hear), in our demand for full self-government, for enjoying a position in our country equal to what others enjoy in theirs. (Hear, hear.) But we, who have come here pledged to work the constitution, may perhaps think it inappropriate to take up that attitude on a question of this kind, and therefore I have my share of congratulations to offer to the hon. the Finance Member in the presentation of the budget. Not that I am satisfied with every aspect of it, but, on the whole, I may be permitted to say that it is satisfactory. Sir, I am one of those who think that it is not fair to rely upon windfalls like the one we are expecting to have, viz., the anticipated remission of the provincial contributions; I may say it is not quite a windfall, but it is a thing which is due to us, and perhaps long overdue. There is one aspect of the question to which I should like to refer. There is again a threatening cloud. I thought all the clouds had passed away, but the hon. Sir Basil Blackett's speech seems to show that he will perhaps have a contribution again to the extent of about 45 lakhs or so next year. Let us take this opportunity to communicate to the Government of India our unanimous demand that there should be a complete remission, an immediate remission and a remission never to be availed of at any future time, so that now we shall have to organize our finances on the footing that we shall no more have these provincial contributions, viz., to the extent of 165 lakhs which was once more than 3 crores. Therefore, the question offers itself; what shall we do with these 165 plus the surplus we are already having. As some Members put it, this sum is over 2 crores. Sir, I think it is our first duty to remit all these taxes which were inaugurated or introduced for the purpose of making up the provincial contribution. Taxation is at a higher level than is absolutely necessary. If I remember aright, I think at the time when the Court fees and the registration fees were enhanced, a distinct undertaking or promise was given to the effect that at the time when the finances of the province assumed a normal position, those taxes would be remitted. This is the first occasion after that promise when we are having a surplus, and therefore no time should be lost in doing our duty by the people and redeeming the promises this Council has given to the people. Even allowing for such remission of taxes, there will still be available a surplus. Therefore, the question is: what shall we do with the available surplus? It has been rightly pointed out that of late, or perhaps all along, the village has not been receiving that adequate consideration which it deserves. It is a very sorry spectacle, Sir, to note that village life has been declining of late. Anybody who has read Indian History would have noted that the village and its life have been the very centre and the source of Indian life. After the introduction of the Western civilization, the village life has been declining, its agriculture, its industries and its several communal aspects have all been decaying. Therefore, it is time that we restored the village to its old vigour and its old life and put it on a safe and sure foundation.

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"It is time that the Panchayats Act is amended and the panchayats are placed on a better footing so that they may be of real use to the villagers. The panchayats are not, in the first place, autonomous. Under the existing conditions, every village cannot have a panchayat, for the purposes for which the panchayats exist are not such as self-respecting men would look after. Panchayats in the real sense of the term are to be created and invested with more powers, made to feel that they are autonomous, self-asserting bodies in a system which is giving life in the villages. They should also have a share in the finances of the country. It may not be inappropriate for me here to suggest that they should have a share of the land revenue collected from that village. Being in possession of funds, they will be in a position to look after the village needs. There is the question of village communication; there is village medical relief; there is the village tank and the village pasture land. To resuscitate village life, the present system of education should be improved and village medical relief requires our prompt attention. If these were granted, we shall see the village regain its lost purity and vigour. I am anxious, therefore, that a good portion of the available surplus should be devoted to the Transferred departments, I mean the departments of Public Health, Co-operation and Education.

"Next in importance comes the question of irrigation. The villagers feel that the question has not been receiving the attention that is its due. Of course, recently, some big schemes have been inaugurated, but the small peasant proprietor in the far-off village in places situated in the dry parts has not been taken into account. I wish therefore that the subject of well irrigation is given a greater impetus and stimulus and that people who are now suffering for want of water in these parts may be benefited.

"I have next to say a few words on the burden of taxation in regard to land. There is a strong feeling and unanimous feeling among those who have to do with land that the incidence of taxation is far higher than the ordinary ryot can bear. The Government have been maintaining much to our disappointment that the taxation is not enough and they are ever trying to push it up as much as possible. While the people are always against the policy of resettlement, the Government are persistently indulging in enhancing the tax upon land. Now in pursuance of the recommendations of the Joint Committee the Government have thought it necessary to publish a Bill relating to land revenue. I will avail myself of this opportunity to warn the Government that the Bill will be received with great dissatisfaction for want of a provision that any enhancement should be sanctioned affirmatively by the Legislature. Merely laying on the table for two months is not enough. I cannot conceive of a more inequitable measure than this Land Revenue Bill just published. Before the Bill is brought up for discussion in the Council it would be well for the Government to amend these portions and see that if they want to tax the people, they should concede the wholesome principle that they should do so only in accordance with the wishes and the consent of the legislature.

"I now proceed to refer to a few grievances in respect of my own district. The first and foremost is the neglect which has been meted out to us at the hands of the hon. the Law Member. We know how beneficial the Mettur scheme would be if only he would consider us to be entitled to the benefits under that scheme. As it is, as we all know, he has excluded us completely

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I for one feel strongly and with me my whole district feels that we have been unjustly excluded. There is neither rhyme nor reason for this, and the Government have been hard put to find out a case for this action of theirs. In a matter of this kind where the happiness of the entire district is concerned, I do not think the hon. the Law Member will be inclined to resort to the theory of settled fact.

"Then, Sir, I certainly have my congratulations to offer to the hon. the Law Member in regard to the Kattalai bed regulator scheme. My only complaint with him there is that he does not go far enough. He has provided but a paltry sum of one lakh in respect of this scheme which will save the Government annually at least Rs. 70,000 by the cultivation of the porambus. The loss which the people and the Government have been sustaining year after year in the matter of remissions cannot be over-estimated and the sooner this work is pushed on the better it is. I request the hon. the Law Member to be more energetic and bring a supplementary demand before the Council for completing the work. There are other works provided for in the budget. For example a provision is made for some surplus works at Killikudu. I should point out to the hon. Member now that these are absolutely unnecessary and would be a mere waste. Engineers in service of Government and retired as well have been unanimous in thinking that these works are absolutely unnecessary especially after the introduction of the Mettur scheme and of the scouring sluices at the Grand Anicut. It is well that money is not wasted on things which are shown to be of no use.

"I should then pass on to refer to the treatment accorded by the Government to 2-C trees. I should say that they are not fair. There has been a resolution passed by this Council that the tax on these trees is far high and should be reduced to the old level. That resolution has been given the go-by. In addition to this, trees which were originally enjoyed as their own property by the pattadars have been taken over by the Public Works Department and attempt is made to lease them. That is one of the grave acts of injustice and I shall have occasion to propose some cuts in respect thereof at the detailed discussion of the budget.

"In regard to the relief which the flood-affected lands were expecting from the Government, the Government have not paid their due attention. The Government have not fulfilled the promises to give trolleys and trucks to remove sand from the affected areas. Far from doing this, their later Government Order has completely gone back on their previous one. Again the way in which they are administering these loans to these poor ryots is very unsatisfactory, not to use a strong expression. If there are ten acres in a plot of land the ryot offers to remove sand from only one acre, he is not given a loan for the purpose. The Government are again unsympathetic in the matter of remissions in the flood-affected areas. If a part of the pattadar's holding is cleared of the silt, he is asked to pay the tax on the whole of his holding."

(The hon. Member resumed his seat as his time-limit was over.)

* Mr. T. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the other day the hon. the Finance Member was giving us that lucid financial statement of his, clothed in the most amiable and engaging form. When he was dwelling on the remission that has been granted to us by the Central

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Government, there was a glow of satisfaction, and I must add, of compassion for the tax-worn millions of this province. I must assure the hon. Member for Finance, Sir, that that glow had a responsive reflection in each and every face in this assembly. Sir, it is really a great boon shown to us, a great mercy, from the Central Exchequer. Verily I may say without pedantry that we realized the profound import of the saying 'Mercy blesseth him that gives and him that takes.' Sir, this song of mercy we are able to sing in connexion with the remission that has now been granted to us. Can we be singing that song of mercy in respect of the various items that we find in the budget here. There is one item here that I want to refer to and that is an item, not merely one crore and sixty-five lakhs granted to us by the Central Government but nearly five crores of rupees to the credit of our revenue and that stands against—Excise. Can we sing that song in respect of these five crores? It does not bless us who are the recipients of the five crores nor does it bless those from whom these five crores are to be exacted. It curseth him that gives and him that takes. That, Sir, is the sorry spectacle in regard to the Excise department. When we want Reform in this department, the authorities say that it is very difficult to remove the drink evil, but what do we find in the world outside us? In America, in Russia—these are countries where the whisky bottle was made a fetich of and Bacchanalian puja was being performed for thousands of years—they have been able to carry on the dry programme to a marvellous extent. In this land which has been all along the land of abstinence, where respectable people never took to drink—for, I may tell you, Sir, that there is no corresponding term in the Tamil language for the 'respectable' term temperance. There is only one word drunkenness. Should it be very difficult, Sir, in this land to carry on this dry programme? But, Sir, what do we find here? We find the department keen on its revenue. It looks as if they take a man by the hand, lead him to the arrack shop and make him drink and thereby fill their pocket with his money.

"And, after having committed, shall I say, a sin, can we be proud of this revenue of five crores that has come to the credit of our finances. All right, Sir, they may ask, without revenue what can we do? Can we undertake all the works for nation-building? Yes, Sir, it is quite possible to do all those things. But considering the immense moral and physical efficiency that will certainly accrue to the masses of our people, I say we can forego all these five crores and even more. And even if we cannot go on with our schemes otherwise, are we justified in taking these five crores of rupees from the millions of our people who have been impoverished and made miserable on that account? (Hear, hear.) Sir, it is impossible to describe the havoc that has been wrought among the people by the drink evil. The principle that has been working out the finance of the Excise department if bodied forth in our imagination as a demon of Titanic proportions and if we clothe him in the modern vesture fitted with pockets he may trot about the world and play the devil dance jingling the five crores of rupees in his pocket. It is only a demon that can do that, but not a human being nor a human institution. After all, it is not impossible for us to go on with our administration without this particular revenue if we would only be somewhat frugal in the other departments of expenditure. Again, Sir, if we have all the kingdoms of the world and sell thereby our soul, what does it avail? Tiruvalluvar, one of the greatest sages and one of the greatest poets

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the head of the President, although the President happens for the time being to belong to that party with whom this Commissioner is said to be in sympathy. An amendment of the City Municipal Act must have come from the Treasury Bench; but as unfortunately it is not forthcoming, I may say that the sooner that legislation is taken up the better will it be for all concerned."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, Members on the other side of the House say that it is useless to have this discussion because they point to some grave constitutional defects. We on this side of the House are also aware of the great fundamental defects under which we are suffering now. We are at one with them in our demand for autonomy (hear, hear), in our demand for full self-government, for enjoying a position in our country equal to what others enjoy in theirs. (Hear, hear.) But we, who have come here pledged to work the constitution, may perhaps think it inappropriate to take up that attitude on a question of this kind, and therefore I have my share of congratulations to offer to the hon. the Finance Member in the presentation of the budget. Not that I am satisfied with every aspect of it, but, on the whole, I may be permitted to say that it is satisfactory. Sir, I am one of those who think that it is not fair to rely upon windfalls like the one we are expecting to have, viz., the anticipated remission of the provincial contributions; I may say it is not quite a windfall, but it is a thing which is due to us, and perhaps long overdue. There is one aspect of the question to which I should like to refer. There is again a threatening cloud. I thought all the clouds had passed away, but the hon. Sir Basil Blackett's speech seems to show that he will perhaps have a contribution again to the extent of about 45 lakhs or so next year. Let us take this opportunity to communicate to the Government of India our unanimous demand that there should be a complete remission, an immediate remission and a remission never to be availed of at any future time, so that now we shall have to organize our finances on the footing that we shall no more have these provincial contributions, viz., to the extent of 165 lakhs which was once more than 3 crores. Therefore, the question offers itself; what shall we do with these 165 plus the surplus we are already having. As some Members put it, this sum is over 2 crores. Sir, I think it is our first duty to remit all these taxes which were inaugurated or introduced for the purpose of making up the provincial contribution. Taxation is at a higher level than is absolutely necessary. If I remember aright, I think at the time when the Court fees and the registration fees were enhanced, a distinct undertaking or promise was given to the effect that at the time when the finances of the province assumed a normal position, those taxes would be remitted. This is the first occasion after that promise when we are having a surplus, and therefore no time should be lost in doing our duty by the people and redeeming the promises this Council has given to the people. Even allowing for such remission of taxes, there will still be available a surplus. Therefore, the question is: what shall we do with the available surplus? It has been rightly pointed out that of late, or perhaps all along, the village has not been receiving that adequate consideration which it deserves. It is a very sorry spectacle, Sir, to note that village life has been declining of late. Anybody who has read Indian History would have noted that the village and its life have been the very centre and the source of Indian life. After the introduction of the Western civilization, the village life has been declining, its agriculture, its industries and its several communal aspects have all been decaying. Therefore, it is time that we restored the village to its old vigour and its old life and put it on a safe and sure foundation.

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* Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, coming immediately after the hon. Member for Tinnevely who has just preceded me, I am afraid I cannot congratulate the hon. the Finance Member either for his budget or for his speech introducing it. It is more than six years since the Reforms have been inaugurated with a great flourish of trumpets and we are now where we were six years ago. Nay, we are worse off on account of the burden on us of additional expenditure of the costly machinery of the Government. Whenever we want any beneficial measures to be introduced for the people the Government coolly say they have no funds. If we want the paltry pay of the hard-worked village officers and the poor village menials to be increased, the hon. the Revenue Member again pleads want of funds. And yet, the people of India are very heavily taxed. I would ask the Government, Sir, to seriously begin to work at retrenchment. By retrenchment, I do not mean the reduction or removal here of menials and of clerks there. (Hear, hear.) We must begin from the top. I would strongly urge there is no necessity at all for more than two Executive Councillors along with the Ministers to do the work done by three Executive Councillors formerly (A voice : ‘Two’) . . . Again, look at the enormous cost of the High Court. Even with 14 hon. Judges in the High Court, there are still arrears and provision has been made for the two additional judges for another year. Two or three Judges of the High Court have been engaged with the Original Side work while similar work is being done in the mufassal by District and Subordinate Judges. I would, in this connexion, suggest to the Government to take steps to have the Letters Patent amended so as to abolish the Original Side jurisdiction of the High Court except in special cases and have the work done by District and Subordinate Judges. Again, about the highly paid salaries, we should certainly begin again from the top, and I would strongly urge that salaries below Rs. 100 should not be reduced on any account. To quote from the budget of the hon. the Minister for Development in 1923, ‘the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers of the Cabinet draw a pay which, in the opinion of the country at large, is far too much for the country to afford and for the work they do.’ I would ask the Treasury Bench to give up any sense of prestige and themselves consent to a reduction in their salaries as well as a reduction in their travelling allowances. (Hear, hear.)

“ Although the budget presented is a deficit one, we should have a surplus of more than a crore of rupees on account of the remission of the Provincial contribution. May I in this connexion, ask the hon. Ministers to try and get the whole of it to be spent on nation-building departments? Already there is an impression that Madras has been treated worse in the allotments. The Department of Agriculture although costing heavily is not correspondingly beneficial to the agriculturist. No steps have yet been taken to give sufficient rural education on agricultural problems in villages. The fees for pumping engines for agricultural purposes have been increased, and even when the ryot is prepared to pay the necessary fees, he does not get the engines in time to save his crops. I know of one instance in my district, when the crops were failing for want of rains and the ryot ran up to the department to get an engine, the department told him that they would first verify whether the crops were really failing, and then send the engine, by which time it would be absolutely useless. I hope, Sir, that the hon. the Minister for Development who is a great friend of the agriculturists would make the department really useful to the ryots.

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"As for the Department of Industries, I have to state that the Government have not been launching out any bold schemes. I believe, Sir, that if the industries of this country should be developed—and the prosperity of the country depends upon it—it can now be done by the initiative of the Government alone. As for the industries that are now being run by the Government, I must say that sufficient care has not been bestowed upon them and they are suffering very much for want of advertisements. I would suggest to the Government that instead of exporting the sandalwood produced, they should start a sandalwood oil factory, which is sure to be successful. A large amount of the revenue comes from the poor people of India, and yet, what do the Government do in return for the taxes, to the poor people of India? While a large amount of money is spent on higher education, very little comparatively is spent on primary education. It will be fresh in the memory of hon. Members of this House how a large number of illiterate voters were subjected to pressure and undue influence in exercising their franchise at the last general elections. Universal compulsory primary education should be introduced without any further delay. I would also suggest to the hon. the Minister for Education to start public libraries at least in all the headquarters of the districts and in towns of more than 40,000 population. In many important towns there is no access to literature of general public interest. The Government should start this work themselves.

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"I have also to point out that while much is spent in big towns for roads, hospitals, water-supply, etc., the villages are uncared for. There are many big villages, in my district which suffer very much for want of a rural dispensary. And the villagers of my district have also to suffer for their political views. If the President of the Local Board recommends a candidate for election and if he has not the support of a particular village, that village is doomed and it cannot have any dispensary or road. I hope that liberal grants will be made to local bodies, roads, wells and rural dispensaries and that the hon. the Minister will see that villages are not neglected for their political views. I would also suggest to the Government to start Ayurvedic dispensaries in the villages which can be run cheaply. As for irrigation, I submit, Sir, that my district is very much neglected. The ryots under the Red Hills tank and the Cholavaram tank are asked to give up their rights and starve in order that Madras may have good water-supply. I would request the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Chief Minister to find out schemes by which supply of water to Madras may be had without prejudice to the agricultural ryots of my district. I would further ask the hon. the Law Member to devote some attention to my district, which is poor and suffers from want of irrigation facilities.

"Lastly I must express my dissatisfaction at the way in which the excise question is tackled by the Government. While there is agitation in the country for prohibition, excise revenue is increasing. The argument of no funds is most scandalous. If the Government cannot run the administration without excise revenue, they can as well abdicate their functions. What is a Government worth which can only be run by ruining the poor in the country. The Government has to tackle the question seriously or say that they want the drink evil to continue. The Ministerialist party have stated in their programme that the acceptance of prohibition is the goal to be attained by definite and progressive stages. I should like to know if the party has approved the programme. I would ask the hon. the Minister for Excise what

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is the progress he is going to make this year. Already precious time has been lost since the inauguration of the reforms. I would suggest to him that he should fight with the Reserved Half and get not less than fifty lakhs out of the remission of Provincial contributions and devote this for a substantial reduction of the drink evil. I have also to draw the attention of the Government to the illicit sales going on so scandalously everywhere, especially in my district. Even when there is no prohibition we have these illicit sales going on openly in almost every village. The police do not take any steps and the Excise department is useless. I would request the hon. the Minister for Excise to take immediate and effective steps to put an end to the illicit sales. In this connexion, I may say that the hon. the Minister for Excise seems to have said in reply to an address presented to him that if he is convinced of the necessity for prohibition he would certainly take the necessary steps. He has also said in his earlier portion that he is consulting the colleagues of the Reserved Half and that he has also to get the sanction of the Central Government. These things should not stand in the way of making the country dry. I would request the hon. the Minister for Excise to fight out the question and do the needful. If that is impossible I would request the Minister to leave the office and join us. If that is not done there is no use."

* Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the year 1925-26, the income under land revenue was 770 lakhs; the next year it is very much less—6 lakhs less than the revenue expected and 30 lakhs less than that of the previous year. In other words, the prosperity of the country has been going down and, Sir, in spite of such an obvious fact, we find that this same period has been marked by the large increase of 19 lakhs in the revenue under Excise. This points but to one conclusion, namely, that at a time when the country's resources were becoming poorer, the Government seems to have been encouraging the revenues, under Excise department. Is this the way that the Government intends to fulfil its promises regarding progressive prohibition?

"On looking through the budget of this year, I find that a sum of over 14 lakhs has been allowed to lapse under such heads as Education, Public Health, Medical, Industries and Agriculture. It has often been the experience of local bodies to have their requests for grants under these heads turned down by the Government. And yet, this sum of 14 lakhs has been allowed to lapse and this negligence to utilize the sums allotted is most regrettable and I hope, that in future such lapses will not be known.

"The cry for Indianization of services has been and is being heard throughout the country, and one of the hon. members reminded the hon. the First Member of the cry and requested that it may be remembered in connexion with the employment of officers for the Mettur Project, etc. May I further strengthen that appeal and express the hope that such Indianization will be a true one, in that it should afford equal opportunities for all and monopolies to none?

"The hon. Member for Tinnevely in the course of his speech pointed out that jurors from rural parts were not above suspicion. While this may be true to some extent, it seems to me that the true causes should be sought elsewhere than in their ignorance or illiteracy. More often than not, such corruption could be traced to the powerful influences brought to bear on such members of the jury, as for instance, some of those gentle arts of persuasion

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known to and practised by the officers of the Police department, or again such corruption being not only connived at by either of the counsels but in many cases suggested by them. The evil therefore must be struck at the root.

"The hon. Member for Malabar who based his fears on the very pronouncements of the hon. Member for Irrigation himself, observed that a big project should not be undertaken without an irrigation law. When local bodies are everyday threatened with surcharge in case of so-called unauthorized and illegal expenditure, may I ask, Sir, if the question of surcharge will not apply to the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation and the Members of this House who would vote for the project in the absence of an irrigation law.

"It is to be regretted that the Government has neither definite policy nor principle in making grants for medical relief, etc., in the mufassal. The Municipalities of Ootacamund and Coonoor have had their requests for grants sanctioned for the treatment of relapsing fever. Yet, when a similar request was submitted by the Kollegal Taluk Board which comprises of backward area and bad in finance, the Government declined to make any grant. Such actions do not reflect credit on the policy of the Government—a policy which ought to be consistent throughout. That this should be so is but reasonable to expect inasmuch as we have, not only a surplus budget but a large sum of money saved for this province by the remission of the contribution of this province to the Central Exchequer. While we feel somewhat relieved at this state of our finances we will surely feel gratified when the Government metes out the due justice to the nation-building departments—starved all these days—by completely utilizing this extra money for their benefit.

"Last year or so, a committee sat to enquire into the problem of unemployment in this province. I do not intend suggesting a panacea for every kind of unemployment but I trust that if a Central Industrial School is opened in each district there will be an appreciable decrease in the number of unemployed among the school-leaving certificate holders, who after the necessary courses in such a school will become members of dignified crafts.

"Of the local board activities, much remains to be done yet, in the matter of extending the system of rural medical relief. A number of dispensaries have been opened for rural relief but they are not enough yet. Why is it that only five dispensaries have been opened last year? The reason is that the subsidy offered by Government is not sufficiently attractive for medical practitioners to take to them in sufficiently large numbers. The Government, if it wishes to make its scheme of rural dispensaries a success, should increase its contribution to Rs. 600 per dispensary.

"Among other needs of rural areas should be mentioned, as deserving of special attention, that of opening new roads and improving those in existence. All talk of rural reconstruction will be futile and insincere if proper roads are not opened between villages and their sanitation improved in preference to the magnificent hospital building in Madras.

"While on the subject of improvement of roads, I must point out that the sum of Rs. 1,000 per mile allotted to trunk roads in municipalities is not enough to keep them in condition. The contribution should be raised at least to Rs. 1,500 per mile.

"In conclusion, I will add my congratulations also, to the hon. Finance Member but on this condition that in the utilizing of the surplus amounts

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realized both from the Provincial budget and the contribution to the Imperial Exchequer, the nation-building departments including local boards and municipalities get, if not the whole, at least the greater part, which will be after all only their due."

* Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Many striking events have happened in the course of the year under review. Firstly, the general elections have been held and the third Council after the Reforms has been called into being. The Justice Party which held its tyrannical sway over the destinies of our Presidency for five long and weary years has at last come to an end. The communal Ministry has been routed at the polls and has altogether disappeared from our midst. For the first time in the annals of the Legislative Council parties have been formed on certain well-defined political principles and not on the accident of birth, creed or circumstance. The complete erasure of the communal Justice party is a matter of supreme satisfaction to the people of our Presidency and they welcome the change with the greatest delight. The Congress party has been returned by a dominant majority who however declined office under the pledges they had given to the country. We have got an unique spectacle of Ministers administering the transferred departments who do not command the support of the majority of the elected representatives in the Council. This is a constitutional anomaly, incidental to a transitional stage and is bound to disappear in course of time. The other remarkable event of the year is the practical wiping out of that iniquitous impost, viz., the levy of provincial contribution to the extent of about 383 lakhs. This budget provides for the recurring remission 116 lakhs and a non-recurring one of 49 lakhs. I sincerely hope and trust that this proposal will be passed in the Legislative Assembly unchallenged and with the whole-hearted support of its members. This ushers in a new financial era and inaugurates the financial autonomy for our province which we have been demanding so long. The abolition of divided heads of revenue is completely established. I heartily join the hon. the Finance Member in his jubilation at the golden prospect of the entire disappearance of the provincial contributions, of the removal of the millstone round the neck of the provincial Government. The long and strenuous fight put up by our Presidency as a whole and notably by the Finance Members in the Council has been at last crowned with success.

"Let him not be afraid of the lions in the path of our Presidency's Pilgrim's progress. I feel confident that there will be no obstacles in the way and that so far this questioned, every responsible representative of the Legislatures is with him. I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member and the people of our Presidency on their good luck. One question we have to address ourselves to at this juncture is as to how to dispose of this happy windfall. I propose that the additional taxation resorted to in the previous years from 1920 and 1921 by way of enhancement of court fee, stamp fee and registration charges may be forthwith abolished and the balance should be earmarked for the use of what are called the development or the nation-building departments, especially for the spread of elementary education, rural, medical and sanitary relief, rural water-supply and village communications and towards the promotion of irrigation schemes.

"Coming to the general features of the budget of the coming year, it shows on paper a deficit of about Rs. 70 lakhs. We are glad to note that there is no real deficit whatever. The current year is expected to open with a

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large balance of about Rs. 134 lakhs, which may be utilized for the purpose of additional expenditure provided for in the budget. The hon. the Finance Member rightly feels that his proposals are open to the criticism of being reckless and extravagant. I do discover a certain amount of recklessness in the budget and venture to give the signal to him for reducing speed. We are labouring under acute famine conditions prevailing in most districts in our Presidency, which are causing great anxiety. In his memorandum he notes that the unfavourable season has reduced our resources, affected the spending power of considerable sections of the community and also diminished employment. This will necessitate a fall of revenue, in the Land Revenue, Excise and other departments, and also will lead to large suspension and remission of Land Revenue and of free and liberal distribution of takavi loans, and liberal allotments have to be made for the purpose. The hon. Member for Finance has failed to take stock of the situation and has made no allowance for the opening of famine-relief work on that large and concentrated scale contemplated by the Famine Code which are imperatively and urgently required in the many famine-affected districts in our Presidency. The hon. Member while realizing the primary duty of the State to alleviate distress in the country, comforts himself by alluding to the irrigation and railway works now in progress, which can afford employment to the labouring classes. They are bound to be local and cannot benefit all the affected areas. He defines the policy of the Government to be in places where famine conditions prevail to finance the local bodies, especially the district boards, and to induce them to start certain road-works in the districts in question. But how far can the local bodies go with their limited resources? Where have they got the agency and staff to undertake the famine-relief works on a comprehensive scale? The State will be simply abdicating its functions if it delegates this kind of work to the local bodies. The gratuitous relief in villages, the opening of grain and fodder depots, the construction of sheds and the making of other sanitary arrangements at the various camps, which form a necessary part of famine relief cannot possibly be undertaken by the local bodies. Evidently, the hon. Member in charge of Finance seems to think that the time is not yet come for opening famine-relief works contemplated by the Famine Code. I am afraid he is mistaken and has failed to read the signs of the times. A casual reference to the seasonable reports of the affected districts will convince him that acute conditions of famine prevail in those places. So far as the district of Bellary is concerned, all the preliminary tests have been fulfilled; the test works provided for by the district board are attracting a very large number of labourers even at reduced wages. Most of them have migrated to other distant parts leaving their wives and children in their homes on account of the delay made by the Government in the opening of relief works. I firmly believe that the time has now arrived when the affected districts should be declared as famine stricken and a comprehensive system of famine relief under various heads and in several forms should be organized. I specially refer to the two wasteful items of expenditure; under the head of Forest, the budget provides for an expenditure of about 51.95 lakhs, while the Revenue will come to only 50 lakhs and secondly the remodelling scheme of the General Hospital at Madras costing about Rs. 40 lakhs and about Rs. 10 lakhs provided for the Pykhara scheme. I do not see the urgent need for the remodelling of the General Hospital. I strongly object to the policy of concentrating everything on the metropolitan hospitals as against the

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district headquarter hospitals, while again incessant cry has been raised for the spread of medical relief in rural areas. The Pykhara scheme is still under investigation. We are not yet convinced about its utility or its profitable or productive nature.

"The resources of the local bodies are still inadequate. The system of making money doles has not yet disappeared. The financial relations between the local bodies and the Provincial Government have not been placed on a sure and sound and firm footing. The most important recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee have not been carried out. I may allude, for instance, to their recommendation that the local bodies should realize one anna from the excise revenue derived in their respective areas. The Taxation Committee has not dealt with the inter-financial relations of the local bodies and the Local Government in an adequate manner. I strongly urge the immediate appointment of a committee of this House for the purpose of defining the financial relations in question. I find a tendency in the policy of Government to reduce the activities of the local bodies to a minimum extent and to assume control over these which legitimately fall under the local sphere of action, or to make grants for certain local services and to retain control over them without making serious attempts to augment their resources. I strongly deprecate the policy which is certain to injure the prospects of Local Self-Government in this Presidency and to mar or destroy their usefulness or independence. The recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee have not been considered and carried into effect. They recommend a standardization of the land revenue in the province. The Land Revenue Resettlement Bill is a huge disappointment and a sham. The little control which the Legislative Council reserves to itself under the former Bill has been taken away in the new Bill. The Local Government interprets the recommendation of the Joint Committee of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords that the land revenue should be systematized and fixed and placed on a statutory basis. The present Bill is only an attempt at the codification of the present Resettlement Manual and nothing more.

"Lastly, I have to refer to the most vital and burning topic affecting our districts which are rightly characterized as forming the famine zone of the Presidency, viz., the Ceded districts. The only permanent solution of the ever-recurring famines and scarcities in them will be the early sanction of the Tungabhadra cum Kistna project. The Government appointed a committee of which I was a member to advise the Government on the desirability of starting large schemes like the Tungabhadra scheme in the districts concerned. The committee sat and unanimously recommended a modified form of the Tungabhadra project. We fondly hoped that the Government will sanction the scheme without any delay. The All-India Irrigation Committee proposed it, and Mr. Mackenzie, the Special Engineer, reported on it at great length. It was however shelved in 1900 in favour of the productive schemes like the Cauvery or Kistna reservoir projects. The question was revived again in the Legislative Council. A committee was accordingly appointed with the hon. the Third Minister as its President and the hon. the Second Minister as one of the members. Their unanimous recommendation has been set at naught. The Government say that it is impossible for them to make up their minds without further investigation and the matter has been referred to the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for their opinion thereon. We do not know whether the proposed conference in connexion with this matter has sat and arrived at any

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decision. In the meanwhile, we regret to note that only a petty sum of about Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned by the Government for further investigation. This is a convenient way of shelving it for one more year. The Government feel that as they are already burdened with immense undertakings on the Cauvery and in the field of hydro-electric department, they cannot sanction the Tungabhadra project even in its modified form. But why should they embark upon other stupendous and costly schemes without settling this long-standing and acute question affecting our districts. The Mettur project or the hydro-electric scheme may bring in additional revenue into the coffers of the Government. But the scheme of the Tungabhadra project will go to improve the chronic economic condition of the people in the famine zone and will permanently prevent the constantly recurring famine and distress in those localities. What is the use of showering plenty where it already abounds? I humbly ask which is the more laudable undertaking, whether to earn more money or to relieve distress. The question has been very seriously exercising the minds of the people in the Ceded districts and they strongly urge the early sanction of the scheme on the attention of the Government."

* Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, if I rise to offer a few remarks on the budget of the year, it is with a view to draw attention to the special needs of my district which I think have not been adequately considered by the different departments.

" Let me first take the question of irrigation. The district of Salem has been very severely hit by the present seasonal conditions. The need for improved irrigation is very great and the people were looking forward to an era of prosperity by the scheme for which crores are to be spent, viz., the Mettur Project scheme.

" We had hoped from the repeated assurances of the hon. Member for Irrigation that Salem district also would get some share of the water-supply. Mettur is within our district border; the reservoir is going to be almost within Salem district proper. Our valuable lands within the projected area are going to be taken up by the Government. Many villages are being vacated because they will be submerged by the new reservoir but we are told that no water can be given to Salem district. We are in the position of the ancient mariner and have only the consolation of crying 'water, water everywhere, not a drop to irrigation.'

" I trust, Sir, that suitable arrangements will be made so as to give some chance to the people of Salem who are much worse off than those of other districts to get some water for their lands.

" When such is the condition of water-supply to the lands, one may imagine what would be the state of water-supply for drinking purposes. The scarcity is so great that even drinking water is not available in some taluks, namely, Tiruchengodu, Namakkal, Rasipur and Hosur. The Government have hardly bestowed any attention on the subject. The gravity of the problem will be realized when I say that the Salem District Board had spent about Rs. 53,000 in the year 1926-27 and has allotted Rs. 50,000 for the year 1927-28, for water-supply for the depressed classes alone. We felt our responsibility in the matter and in spite of a special labour department in charge of the depressed classes, the District Board has undertaken the financial burden. It

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[Mr. S. Ellappa Chettiyar]

is up to the Government now to help the Board with an equivalent grant at least in the year 1927-28. I hope, Sir, that the Labour Department and the Finance Department will discharge their responsibility in the matter.

" I should further like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that Government have not yet done anything to help the local boards in their campaign against infantile mortality and maternal mortality. It is not necessary for me to repeat the figures of death rate of these two mortalities as they were clearly pointed out yesterday by the hon. Member, Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal. In this matter, also, the Salem District Board has been doing its best during the last three years in carrying on the propaganda for child welfare and in opening centres for maternity relief. The work is so great, the demand is so large that I feel justified in calling upon the Provincial Government to take its share, now that the finances of the province are in a good condition and to pay from the provincial contributions which are likely to be remitted. I think it is only fair that the Government should take its share in carrying on this work.

" Next I would like to take up the question of village communication and rural medical relief. It is no good expecting contributions from local bodies for the improvements of these two items. The funds at the disposal of the province are ample for such work to be undertaken entirely by the provincial Government. If the Finance Member suggests that it is unscientific to undertake such works directly and finance them entirely, I would only say that the present financial conditions of the local bodies do not permit of an alternative. So I suggest that the provision made in the budget for these purposes may be increased so as to render full help to the local bodies.

" I will now come to the roads. The present grant for trunk roads and second-class roads is proving quite inadequate for the purpose. The grant of Rs. 500 per mile for trunk roads and Rs. 200 per mile for second-class roads was fixed some years ago when the motor traffic was not much. Now the large increase in motor traffic and particularly heavy bus traffic has deteriorated the roads so much the Government must increase the rate of grant if the roads are to be maintained in proper condition. There are two alternatives before the Government—either they should at stated intervals give special grants as before for re-laying the roads in addition to the annual grants or they should raise the annual grants. I am certain that the problem will press itself on the attention of the Government very soon. 4 p.m.

" With reference to trunk roads, they have a special responsibility. And at a time when an Imperial Road Board has been constituted, they cannot shirk their responsibility. If they continue their present policy, they will soon find it necessary to undergo large capital expenditure in re-laying roads. I trust they will pursue the more far sighted policy of increasing the grants for the roads.

" I should also like to draw the attention of the Government to the long-felt and urgent need for a new building for the Salem College. The Government have promised a grant, but the question has been held up owing to dispute about the site. As there is no reason to change the present approved site, I trust the hon. the Education Minister will not hold up the matter any longer, but will allow the work to be undertaken and finished soon.

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"Regarding the grants given by the Government to the local bodies for secondary education, I do not know what prompted them to deviate from the policy of fixing grants every year according to the needs of the local boards and to adopt a policy of fixing the amount of grants for a period of three years. This new policy, I think, will not be conducive to the improvement of secondary education. So I trust the Government will consider this matter and go in for the old policy.

"Before I finish, I wish to say a word about the drainage scheme of Salem town. This question was under the consideration of Government for some time past. I do not see any provision made in the Budget. As this is also an important and urgent matter for the improvement of the sanitation of the town, especially when there is the water-supply scheme in force for so many years, I hope the Government will pay their early attention to this matter also.

"In conclusion, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the presentation of a surplus budget, but I have only to express my regret that in the era of prosperity, neither halves of Government have tried to do anything worth mentioning to relieve the pitiable condition of the rural population."

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not know whether it is quite fashionable to compliment the Finance Member who manages to present a deficit budget every year, but I want to say this much in fairness to him, that our Finance Member has become an expert in the preparation of deficit budgets. If really the discussion on the budget is going to serve any useful purpose, I wish to offer a few remarks.

"The important question which is agitating the public mind to-day is that of the excise policy. The present policy of the Government with regard to this subject cannot be too strongly criticized. It is a very immoral source of income that the Government are raising by this merciless excise policy, without any regard to the health, welfare and economies of the people. This time a good Christian is in charge of excise and I hope he is not a believer in moderate drinking. Now, in spite of the deficit budget, we have a substantial windfall from Delhi and a very good opening balance. About half the amount of provincial remission may be set apart in order to meet the loss in revenue by the hon. Minister launching forth a policy of prohibition leading ultimately to total prohibition. This is an excellent opportunity for the Ministry to grasp and, if they fail to rise to the occasion now, they are damned for ever. No doubt they will be side-tracked by the other half on the Treasury Bench, but the Ministry should take a firm and bold stand and bring the incorrigible section of the Treasury Bench to acquiesce in and carry out a policy leading shortly to total prohibition. If they fail to achieve this well, they should say good-bye to their colleagues and come out.

"Turning to the question of judicial administration, it is time now that steps are taken at once to reduce the rates on stamps, court fee and registration. This increase is doing a good deal of harm to the people by preventing them from getting justice on account of the costliness it involved to the average man. Judicial administration should never be made a source of revenue. No doubt it may be argued that poor people have no business to go to a court, but it is the rich man that draws the poor man to court. (Hear, hear.) Therefore it is desirable that the rates are reduced to the old level and the consequent loss of revenue be met by a portion of the windfall."

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“Another question which is long pending, though it ought to be immediately attended to, is that of the separation of the judicial and executive functions. This question has been before the country ever since Mr. F. J. Halliday wrote his famous minute on this question in 1838. After many intermediate stages, the subject came again to prominence in 1917 when the Report of the Public Services Commission was published and ever since the question has been shelved. Nobody will dispute the sound principle on which this separation is urged and the advantages which such a separation will bestow on the public.

“I dare say, Sir, that if only the hon. the Law Member will treat this question with half the attention and zeal with which he pushes on the Mettur project, on which crores of rupees are spent, this question of separation of the judicial and executive functions would have been an accomplished fact. Sir, I leave the question of the Mettur project to the hon. Member from Coimbatore who is conversant with it.

“With regard to the severe drought this year, this House recommended for remissions but, as a matter of fact, no appreciable remissions have been granted and the hon. the Revenue Member coolly said the other day when the hon. Member from Ramnad wished to include his district in the list of districts requiring remission, that no district will suffer either by inclusion or exclusion. That is the result of diarchy. In fact, I hear from my district that the collection of tax is more stringent this year than it was ever before. I think the difficulty is—I may be wrong but that is what I think—that if remission is granted this year it will serve as a dangerous precedent for coming years. That I deem is what the hon. the Revenue Member is afraid of.

“Another question which has immediately to be solved is the land revenue settlement. Nobody can dispute that the poor ryot is overburdened with tax. There is absolutely no use in building new agricultural colleges, opening demonstration farms and all that sort of showy things, which do not lessen the burden of the poor ryot. Nothing short of reduction of tax will improve their position.

“I may also mention that the Board of Revenue has become an unnecessary establishment and I see that the hon. Members of this House have been expressing their wish that it should be abolished at once. But it is still there flourishing as merrily as ever.

“Passing on to the forest domains of the hon. the Home Member, I may say that the forest policy of the Government affects the ryots very prejudicially. Areas which are almost bald or with some shrubs where even a cat cannot hide itself, are called reserve forests (hear, hear) and the Forest Department prevent the ryots from allowing their cattle to graze or take leaves for manure. I see some improvement now, that they are disafforesting some of these so-called reserved forests, but they must go on still more quickly. The ryots, Sir, are so keen about this question of grazing their cattle and collecting manure leaves from the trees that they will be very much pleased if the hon. the Home Member will devote more attention to this and deliver them from the tyranny of the forest officials and their regulations. I will even go to the length of saying that the day on which the Home Member issues the fiat that these forest rules and regulations should go, that day will be celebrated as a day of deliverance, worthy of commemoration.

[Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Mudalyar] [4th March 1927]

"Now, Sir, coming to the Chief Minister whom I do not see here, he is rather beginning to abuse the power of nomination. It ought to be nipped in the bud. He is following a progressive policy in this year of Grace 1927, by replacing women by male members on local bodies. For instance, in the District Board of Chingleput, in the place of a lady member he has put in a gentleman member selected from a community very predominantly represented on that board. I cannot see any reason for this glaring violation of the principle of nomination. Nomination, I believe, Sir, is intended for selecting persons from out of minorities and depressed and backward classes. Of course he may take shelter under the usual argument of that real efficiency, expert knowledge and so on. But that will not always effectually help him.

"Coming to the Agricultural Department, I may say that that is a department in which the Minister can do a lot to alleviate the real grievances of the people; but without the co-operation of the Members on the Treasury Bench in the matter of finance, I do not think he will be able to achieve much. However he can do a lot for the improvement of co-operative societies, especially for the development of the non-credit side of the co-operative societies. Then, with regard to medical relief to the rural population, a number of people die during epidemics because they are not cared for and have no proper medical aid near at hand. If only the Minister for Public Health takes some interest in this and does something for these poor villagers who die as victims to fell diseases, I am certain the death-rate will not be so high and people will be healthy and happy.

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p.m.

"Finally, Sir, I may say that in the service of the Government the backward classes ought to be given their proper share. At present they are neglected between two stools. I am not forgetful of the interest awakened for the betterment of the depressed classes. But, while I admit it is rather scanty, there is still plenty of room for a liberal treatment of the depressed classes. I urge that the claims of the backward classes should not be forgotten and overlooked in the wider classification of non-Brahman Hindus."

* The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—"Mr. President, Sir, let me add my quota of congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member for getting such a budget even under the present disharmonious relations of weather and politics.

"As this is my maiden attempt to discuss a provincial budget, the House would correct me if I go wrong.

"Sir, let me explain my position and policy before grappling with this budget. I am returned to the Council by a constituency which is alleged to be rather conservative. But, Sir, I feel proud to say that my constituency consists of more liberal minded persons, both socially and politically, than any other constituencies. I am a spokesman to my trust. I shall be failing in my duty, if I could not or would not voice forth their feelings here. So, Sir, my main complaint about this budget is that it touches the proprietors of this Presidency most. After fulfilling my trust, I shall be a poor man's friend who is living in rural areas, without education, soaked in ignorance and superstition.

"I think, Sir, a deficit budget is a healthy sign and our budget is a deficit budget. My pious hope of the country being a healthy one remains to be fulfilled. I shall now consider the condition of agriculture and irrigation which are nearest to the heart of my constituency. Our province is full of

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irrigation sources and, by a slight manipulation of these, every inch of land can be sown and reaped. Sir, India was is, and always will be an agricultural country. I hear that in Italy every acre of land yields twice as much as an acre in our province. Why so, Sir? It is because of State-aid. In this budget, we have been provided with a pittance for this purpose compared with General Administration and other main items. Sir, the sap of the country is stifled. How can the tree live and bear fruit under such circumstances? The State ought to be giving a helping hand to the poor ryot and overburdened proprietor in the shape of loans and general instructions for agricultural purposes. They should introduce new methods of manuring, etc. You may say that the proprietor or the tenant can utilize the co-operative societies. There, Sir, the burden of collection of dues falls on a single individual who would advance loans only to persons from whom it can be easily got back and not to poor persons. But an executive officer of the Government who has got very little work in the zamindari tracts may be asked to collect the dues in reasonable instalments after the tenant has gathered his crops. There should be more propaganda work done among the masses for the purpose of teaching them the best and improved methods of agriculture.

“Now, Sir, let me enumerate the difficulties of the village staff in proprietary villages. The proprietary village officers and servants used to get lava zama and work before the enfranchisement of service inams. Lava zama is a kind of commission on the collections they used to make for their proprietors. The proprietors used to love them as their own children for the good service the village staff was rendering them. The village officer used to collect the kist of the proprietor to the best of his ability having an eye on the lava zama and also pleasing his master. The enfranchisement of inams cut the chord of affinity between the proprietor and his village officer. The village officer has to pay heavy quit-rent on his inam lands. He gets in return for his service under the Government and the proprietor a pittance of 8 or 12 rupees per mensem. He has to pay homage to every revenue inspector that passes through the village. If he is at the proprietor's headquarters on some official business just imagine his deplorable predicament, were he to be summoned at the same time by the Government officers and vice versa. He is between the chisel and the nut. He has to make both ends meet with his small salary reserving a heavy percentage of it for the freaks of officers. If we look at the budget, the revenue from quit-rent of the enfranchised service inams is seen to be 8 lakhs for the last year and is expected to be the same this year. But lo! Look at the expenditure? It was 16.48 lakhs last year and this year it is expected to be 16.321 lakhs. So, Sir, the difference payable out of the general revenues last year was 8.48 lakhs while this year it would be 8.321 lakhs. Under the circumstances the Government are hesitating to enhance the salaries. So, it is requested that the lava zama system may be restored and the half-starved proprietary village officers and servants saved. This will also revive the harmony between the proprietor and his village staff.

“Sir, the Department of Public Health is to be overhauled. There is very little propaganda in the rural areas in the matter of hygiene and sanitation. The Health and Baby Week which is a part of the programme of the department is not being encouraged by it to its fullest extent. There are many municipalities where sanitation is neglected. In the budget we

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find a very small sum of Rs. 33.98 lakhs apportioned for this department. Out of this sum about a third or a half goes for establishment and other charges. More capable and interested officers should be employed if sanitation in rural and urban areas is to be improved. I therefore request that more money should be spent on this department.

"The famine conditions are becoming more and more frequent, and yet only a very small sum has been provided for the purpose. The need of the hour is to save the poor labourers and agriculturists with their prolific families. This major head should therefore be provided with more funds. We are happy to hear from the Finance Members both of the Imperial and Provincial Government that our ardent wish to get the provincial contributions released will soon be realized. The amount thus released should be utilized for the benefit of transferred subjects.

"With regard to education I regret that the sap of the young has been sucked and the skeletons which remain are being prepared for quill driving in some dingy office. The young brains are overtaxed with a foreign language. It would be desirable and better if all the subjects up to the high school classes are taught in the vernaculars. There ought to be vocational training in every class. Those who could not afford to go to arts or law—everybody is compelled to do so now—can take up vocational training in all classes. Then the country will have artisans, smiths, engravers, weavers, engineers and mechanics. There should be grades in vocational training. Up to the secondary standard, both vocational and arts training may be taught side by side. Then different groups of colleges and schools are to be established leaving it to the student to take up whatever course he likes to undergo. It is this system which the hon. the late Minister for Education advocated when he kindly visited our parts. But up to this time I am not aware of steps being taken in that direction. I request the present Ministry to take up this programme and go forward with it, although the budget as presented does not contain any provision for the purpose. It has been kindly stated by His Excellency the Governor in his inauguration speech of the Andhra University 'the Andhra University is a pet child of Sir A. P. Patro, the late Minister for Education.' Sir, I request the present Ministry not to change the 'pet' into a 'step', and view the Andhra University as a step child. Sir, I request the above grants to be sanctioned by the House without any cut.

"The provincial heads of departments especially those in the Transferred half are touring mostly only in the parts known to them. They will be pleased to extend their tours to all parts of the Presidency. The chief object of their tours should be to find out the defects in the administration and the grievances of the public by surprise visits.

"Lastly, a word about local boards before I finish my speech. Sir, everywhere there is a cry that the presidents of local boards and municipalities are autocratic in the carrying out of boards' orders. So, Sir, an executive body consisting of three members from each board may be formed to assist the presidents in all their actions. Sir, finally I make a request to the Government to be pleased to provide the Transferred half with more funds for the benefit of the province."

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[The Zamindar of Gollapalli]

* Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am used to waiting for my name being called in connexion with cases, but there the thing is different. I have got the hope that I would be able to do something for my client. Unfortunately that hope has not been entertained in this case, because there is no likelihood of it being fulfilled.

“ The hon. the Finance Member is already overburdened with the heavy load of congratulations given to him for the budget and I do not wish to load him further. It is not further a budget upon which I can congratulate the hon. Member. It has been stated by the previous speakers that diarchic administration is of no use in this country and that diarchy is absolutely unworkable. Member after Member from every part of the House gets up and narrates a tale of unabated woe, economic and otherwise of the people of the province.

“ Now, let us examine the activities of the transferred as well as the reserved half. First and foremost comes the question of land revenue. Sir, the question of permanent settlement has been in the forefront for over half a century and nothing has been done with regard to it. Nobody even refers to it with any sort of hope. Very recently a Land Revenue Bill has been published. It is almost a copy of the previous Land Revenue Bill of 1924. It simply legalises the existing practice of settlement and it gives to the Legislative Council the simple status of an ordinary consultative body leaving the effective voice to the Government as the ultimate arbiter. Therefore this Land Revenue Bill is of no use to the country.

“ I may also point out in this connexion one important point. And that is this: in the case of income-tax, in the case of profession tax and in the case of house-tax in the municipalities there is what is known as the assessable minimum. In the case of this Land Revenue Bill we find absolutely nothing of the sort. We know, Sir, that 72 per cent of the people of this province live upon agriculture and that 70 per cent of the pattadars pay an assessment of Rs. 10 and below Rs. 10. Time forbids a detailed narration of the woes of the poor ryot and I do not attempt it as it is a fact well known to all. Is it too much to expect that the Government might for once err into the right path and be guilty of at least one single beneficial act by exempting these pattadars paying Rs. 10 and below from land assessment? It might be put against me that the money is to come from some other source. In answer to that I will put it to the Government and to the Treasury Bench ‘ Remove the top-heavy administration. Remove everybody who has been found to be unfit and abolish the Revenue Board. Make the Government stronger and stronger and infuse greater contentment among the people who are your mainstay and thus effectuate this policy’. At least err into the right path for one single time in the life time of this Government. Of course there is nothing revolutionary about it. This idea of mine was the subject of a resolution passed by the Godavari District Association with which I happened to be connected two years back. Would it be too much to suggest that re-settlement operations now going on in the Godavari district may be ordered to be suspended until the Land Revenue Bill becomes law. Of course not much of benefit will be derived from it. But yet let something be done as a result of our placing this tale of woe before the Legislative Council. So I suggest that the land revenue settlement operations in the Godavari district may be suspended until the Land Revenue Bill becomes law.

[Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu]

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p.m.

"Now, we must go to the question of irrigation. With reference to irrigation, things are done in a hole and corner fashion with no enactment or regulation regulating the principles of irrigation. If there had been such regulations and enactments, the anomaly spoken of by my hon. Colleague from West Godavari would not have taken place. There is neither law nor logic in the levy of inducement fee after the pattadars have got their lands entered as wet and that on the payment of a heavy penalty of Rs. 20 per acre. The very moment land is entered in the wet ayacut, the necessity for the levy of inducement fee automatically disappears. I cannot understand under what consideration the Government are continuing to levy the fee if it is not due to want of foresight.

"Now that I am on this subject of irrigation, may I give expression to a feeling which is not insignificant that in the matter of irrigation works taken up by the Government, northern districts are not being treated as fairly as it ought to be? Except the Polavaram Island project that has been taken up—not a very costly scheme when compared with Pykhara or Mettur scheme—no other project Coringa or Torrigedda has been taken up. We have been pressing the matter in time and out of time. Nothing has been done in these matters. I do not mean anything ill to my brothers from the south but I think I am entitled to complain of neglect of our parts.

"With reference to civil justice, I may point out that I agree with all that has been said by the hon. Member, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the other day. I would only refer to what is taking place in the district to which I belong. The District Judge issues a circular to all the subordinate judiciary including Sub-Judges to send returns of monthly disposal of cases. It will be within the knowledge of most of the hon. Members of this House that in Sub-Judges' courts it happens that a large number of original suits could not be finished within the course of the month. So much so, the trepidation that the Sub-Judge will have to show at the end of the month for a nil statement of disposal and his nervousness we can naturally conceive. With that sort of equanimity and balance of temper—with this sword hanging upon his head, the monthly disposal returns—he will not be in a position to deal out justice as he is expected to do, as referred to by the hon. Member Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, law reporting as is done now, it is not bringing more law but it is bringing more confusion. I request the hon. the Law Member to take up the matter in right earnest and that at an early time.

"Now, Sir, I turn to the transferred half which is said to be in charge of what are called nation building activities. It is an irony of things that this branch which has been for the last six years in charge of nation building departments, has behaved in such a manner that in actual working, the acts of this branch have destroyed the nation building activities. Professing total prohibition in this House as well as in public meetings, a big circular happens to be issued to the Health Officers of the Municipalities not to preach against drink. You can conceive the anomaly of the professions and the actions.

"Then again, Sir, with reference to spinning, so much is talked of by the ex-Minister about the introduction of vocational training in institutions and when spinning is attempted to be introduced into schools, a circular happens to be issued that spinning and weaving ought to be introduced and not spinning alone. I am not able to understand how spinning by itself will not form part of vocational education.

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[Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu]

"There is another matter with regard to Hindi instruction in schools. In spite of the fact that so far as our municipality is concerned—the District Educational Council recommended the proposal—the proposal is knocked on the head.

"We have got three instances. It providentially happens that these are matters which are connected with the constructive activities of the National Congress party during all these years; and it providentially happens that in these three instances the Ministry acts up in a manner which will necessarily indicate that they want to forsake the country and embrace the Government. I think it was because the Ministry wanted to rely upon the Government completely for their existence and they wanted to play to the tune of the Government and forsake the country.

"My point is this: There is no use ignoring the existing state of things. The strength of the schools is going down on account of the absence of instruction in Hindi. My one request is that both the Reserved half and the Transferred half ought not to ignore the state of feeling that is operating in the country; they will have to take cognizance of it and face it if they mean to do business at all. That is my first point.

"I would submit that both the Reserved half and the Transferred half will have to begin with a clean slate and with a clear heart. All the mistakes and the blunders ought to be erased before they mean to do serious business. They must have the slate clean. By clear heart, I mean that they will have to turn over a new leaf; they will have to get rid of all ideas of prestige; they will have to do away with the top-heavy administration and administer the country profitably.

"One of my hon. Friends on the other side wanted Indianization of the services. I would not be content with the Indianization of the services only. I want Indianization of the policy; I want Indianization of all interests. Until then I would not be satisfied."

* Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry I do not feel called upon to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member upon his Budget, and this attitude of mine is due not to the preparation of the Budget but to the inadequate provision made for subjects of national importance. Expenditure has gone up to thrice the pre-war height and revenue is whipped beyond endurance to keep pace with it. Not a year passes without creating new appointments and new cadres, and even the few indifferent nation-building schemes on hand are starved. Travelling allowances are in a princely scale, and it is an open secret that many of those that draw them live upon them, saving their salaries. If it is a question of exchange ratio and deflation, index numbers of prices are trotted out to show the fall in prices and the consequent necessity for deflation and for raising the value of the rupee. But when it is a question of salaries of Government servants and of Government expenditure index numbers are given the go-by. When it comes to settlement of land-tax the same price levels are shown to be high to justify the $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent rise in land tax. I am one of those who felt that the Government was doing a very wrong thing when during the last stages of the great war and its aftermath they raised the pay and emoluments of their servants to giddy heights most unnecessarily and without stipulating for their temporary character. It is an evil day for the country when office under Government is the most coveted thing and other walks of life are sought for as a last resort.

[Mr. Ch. K. Subrahmanya Pillai]

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* "Unless and until the salaries of all the higher officers are put on sane levels, unless and until a great cut is made in the army of Government servants, taxes will go on increasing and the people will be progressively impoverished. It has been said that Indian revenues are elastic but, if so, they are always on the stretch and are stretched every year more and more and they are never known to be allowed to resume their normal tension. I for one think they are near snapping point. The Government is nowhere near Indianization of the services which should result in substantial savings to the country and to this Presidency, and there is no indication of their movement in that direction in the budget. While every sympathy should be shown to the depressed communities and preference shown to them in assignment of lands on dharkhast as in many other respects it is a moot point whether waste lands should be permanently reserved for allotment to them for years together in expectation of their applications and withheld from other deserving poor classes of people. I now pass on to the number of kistbandis in the revenue collections. The hon. the Revenue Member will, I hope, realize what tragedies lie behind the monthly whips from February to May laid by the Tahsildars on the village headmen for prompt collection of land revenue. I would entreat the hon. the Revenue Member to seriously consider whether for four kistbandis seven should not be substituted, four from March to June and three from September to November.

"I now come to the portfolio of the hon. the Law Member. While we should be and are grateful to the hon. the Law Member during whose tenure irrigation works have received considerable impetus, I would impress upon him that the repairs of existing irrigation works are even more urgent and there are channels and anicuts that were never repaired within the memory of man, for instance the Manur anicut and Manur channel in the Tinnevely district.

"Regarding the administration of the Department of Local Self-Government ever since the Reform and ever since the old Acts gave place to the Acts of 1920, great friction has prevailed in many of the districts between the chairmen or presidents on the one hand and the members of councils or boards on the other. The laxity of the rules and the ambiguity of the wording of the Acts are things that should engage the immediate attention of the Government. The question whether chairmanship of boards and municipalities should not be thrown open for direct election by the wider electorate which chooses the members should be considered by the Government in all its aspects. I cannot say the administration of municipalities and local boards has been all that it should be.

"I should like pointed attention of the hon. the Minister for Development to be directed to the condition of co-operative societies in the Presidency. The various officers connected with them are keener upon showing paper results than upon consolidating the ground already won. Instead of a frank recognition of a bad situation regarding the punctual return of loans and application of correct remedies in the shape of proper personnel and stricter and more efficient control, the department suggests long-term loans. That is a question that should be thrashed out with mature deliberation lest greater disasters should overcome the societies. The Government should impress upon the officers that it is not more societies that are required but the strengthening of the existing societies and stricter supervision over them,

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[Mr. Ch. K. Subrahmanya Pillai]

Auditing should not be confined to mere arithmetical verification and tallies of accounts but should extend deeper into the investigation of the soundness of the borrowers and the securities.

“With regard to the department of Education, while increased allotments are made for the universities and all other items coming under the head of Education, there is no new venture in the shape of schools or colleges for imparting technical knowledge of national importance. I trust also that during the year some more steps will be taken towards the formation of the Tamil university.

“The village medical relief so far given is like a drop in the ocean and its extension will relieve the unemployment of medical men while relieving the pain and sickness of millions.

“We are not yet in sight of reasonably cheap justice and there is no promise in the budget of a reduction in court fees—the oppressive and prohibitive tax on justice. The denudation of Papanasam forest is still going on and the extent and the result of the operations so far are not narrated and the budget has left us in the dark about it.”

* **Mr. K. KRISHNASWAMI NAYAKAR:**—“அக்கிராசனாவர்களே! கனம் பொருந்திய Finance மெம்பர் அவர்கள் கொடுத்த வரவு சிலவு திட்டம் மிகவும் அதிருப்திகரமாயிருக்கிறதென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். இந்த சட்டசபைத் தேர்தல் சமீபத்திலேயே நடந்ததாகையால் கிராம வாசிகள் வெளியிட்டக் குறைகளும், கவர்ன்மெண்டைப் பற்றியும் சட்ட சபைகளைப்பற்றியும் அவர்கள் என்ன சொல்லிக் கொள்கிறார்கள் என்பதும் அங்கத்தினர்கள் ஞாபகத்திலிருக்கலாம். ஒட்டுக்காக அபேக்ஷகர்கள் போனபோது பிரதி கிராமங்களிலும் ஜனங்கள், ‘ஒட்டுக் கொடுப்பதில் என்ன பிரயோஜனம்! எங்கள் பேரிலுள்ள வரிச்சுமை அதிகப்படுகிறதே யல்லாமல் எவர் சட்ட சபைக்குப் போனபோதிலும் எங்களுக்கு ஒரு நன்மையுமில்லை,’ என்று சொன்னார்கள். இவ்விதம் ஜனங்கள் நினைப்பதற்குத் தகுந்த நியாயங்கள் இருக்கின்ற தென்பதை ஒருவரும் மறுக்கமுடியாது. சென்ற ஆறு வருடங்களாய் புதிய சீர்திருத்தங்களால் கவர்ன்மெண்டின் சிலவு ஏராளமாய் அதிகப்பட்டிருக்கிறதே தவிர ஜனங்களின் சௌகர்யங்களில் ஒரு அனுகூலமும் உண்டாகவில்லை. என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் அனேக கிராமங்களில் போக்குவரத்துக்குச் சரியான பாதைகளில்லாமலும், குடிக்க ஜலவசதியில்லாமலும் ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகின்றார்கள் என்றால், சீர்திருத்தங்கள் யாருக்காக ஏற்பட்டனவென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். இந்த முக்கிய சௌகர்யங்கள்கூட கவர்ன்மெண்டு சரிவர செய்யமுடியாவிட்டால் கவர்ன்மெண்டும் சட்ட சபைகளும் எதற்காகவென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். ஒரு கிராமத்திலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் ஒரு பாதை போடவேண்டும் என்றோ, ஒரு ஆஸ்பத்திரி வேண்டுமென்றோ, தாலுக்கா போர்டாரைக் கேட்டால், அவர்கள் தங்களிடம் பணமில்லை என்கிறார்கள். கவர்ன்மெண்டை ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு பண உதவிசெய்யும்படி கேட்டாலோ தங்களிடம் பணமில்லை என்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களும் கவர்ன்மெண்டும் எவ்வளவு வரி போடலாமோ அவ்வளவும் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஏழைகளிடம் வாங்கும் வரியே பெருத்த சம்பளங்களாகவும் இன்னும் ஜனங்களுக்கு அனுகூலமில்லாத இதர வழிகளிலும் சிலவிடப்படு

[Mr. K. Krishnaswami Nayakar]

[4th March 1927]

கிறது. மற்றெந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டிலும் இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டில் உள்ளது போல் உயர்ந்த சம்பளங்கள் இல்லை. நிர்வாக கவுன்ஸில் மெம்பர்களும் மந்திரிகளும் தாங்களாகவே குறைந்த சம்பளம் ஒப்புக்கொள்வார்களென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். கவர்ன்மெண்டாருக்கு உண்மையில் ஜனங்களிடம் அன்பு இருந்தால் அநியாய சிலவைக் குறைத்து ஏழை ஜனங்களுடைய சௌகர்யங்களுக்கு செலவு செய்யவேண்டும். நிர்வாக மெம்பர்களுக்கும் மந்திரிகளுக்கும் வெளிப்பிரயாணத்திற்கு செலுன் அனாவசியம். அவர்கள் இனி செலுனில் போகமாட்டார்கள் என்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். மற்றும் நமது நாட்டில் முழுவயிருக்கு உண்ண வழியில்லாமல் அநேக ஏழைகள் கஷ்டப்படும்போது பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் தாங்கள் வாங்கும் பெருத்தச் சம்பளங்களில் ஏன் கொஞ்சம் குறைக்கக்கூடாதென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் நீர்ப்பாய்ச்சல் விஷயத்தில் கவர்ன்மெண்டு வேண்டியவரையில் கவனிப்பதேயில்லை. அனேகமாய் ஆற்றுக்கால் பாய்ச்சலில்லாமல் ஏறிகளையும், மழையையுமே எதிர்ப்பார்த்திருக்கும் செங்கல்பட்டு ஜில்லாவில் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்தி நீர்ப்பாய்ச்சல் முதலான வசதியை விருத்திசெய்யவேண்டும். காட்டிலாகா விஷயத்தில் ஏன் ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் மிகுந்த கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். காட்டிலாகாவினால் கவர்ன்மெண்டு தங்களுடைய வருமானத்தை மாத்திரம் கவனியாமல், வியவசாயிகளுடைய நன்மையும் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். வரிகள் மூன்று மடங்கு அதிகமாகிவிட்டன. குடியானவர்களுடைய வீட்டுக்கு பக்கத்திலேயே காடுகளிருப்பதால் ஆடுமாடுகள் காட்டுக்குள் அடிக்கடி துழையும்படி இருக்கிறது. அப்படி துழைந்தால் உடனே பிடித்து பவுண்டில் அடைத்து அபராதம் போடுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் ஏழை வியவசாயிகள் ஹிம்மிக்கப்பட்டுவருகிறார்கள். காட்டு வரியைக் குறித்து ஜனங்கள் குடி இருக்கும் வீடுகளுக்கு கொஞ்சம் தூரம் வரையில் காடுகள் இருக்கக்கூடாதென்று கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும்.

“சுகாதார விஷயத்திலும் வைத்திய விஷயத்திலும், கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஏராளமாய் செலவு செய்கிறபோதிலும் கிராமங்களில் சுகாதார விஷயத்தை போதிப்பதற்கு, இதுவரையில் கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஒரு ஏற்பாடும் செய்யவில்லை. வயித்திய வசதிகளும் இல்லை. தவிர ஜனப் பிரதிநிதிகளாகிய மந்திரிகள் ஆறு வருஷம் கவர்ன்மெண்டு நடத்திய பின்னும், ஏன் ஜில்லாவில் அநேக கிராமங்களில் நாகதாளிப் புதர்களிருப்பதை காணலாம். இவைகளை கவர்ன்மெண்டார் எடுக்காமல் கிராமத்தாரை எடுக்கும்படி கவர்ன்மெண்டு நோட்டீஸ் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எடுக்காவிட்டால், கவர்ன்மெண்டே எடுத்து கிராமத்தாரிடம் செலவை வசூல் செய்கிறார்கள். கிராமத்தார் எடுக்கக்கூடிய ஸ்திதியிலிருந்தால் கவர்ன்மெண்டு சொல்வதற்கு முன்னமே எடுத்திருப்பார்கள். அவர்களாகவே, செய்யாததற்கு அவர்கள் எழ்மையே காரணம். ஆகையினால் கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே இந்த அவசியமான வேலையைச் செய்யவேண்டும்.

“தவிர என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் டோல்கேட்டுகள் கள்ளுக்கடைப் போல் அநேகமிருக்கின்றன. சில இடங்களில் இருபத்தைந்து மைல் தூரத்திற்குள்ளேயே இரண்டு டோல்கேட்டுக்களுக்குப் பகுதி கட்டவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதுமிவுல்லாமல் இரண்டு, மூன்று மைல் தூரத்திற்குள் ஒரு

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கிளை டோல்கேட் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சில மாதங்களுக்கு முன்கூட டோல்கேட் எலம்விட்ட பிறகு ஒரு கிளை டோல்கேட்டை எங்கள் ஜில்லா போர்டு தலைவர், ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார். இந்த கிளை டோல்கேட்டுகளால் முக்கியமாய் ஏழை வியவசாயிகளுக்கே அசௌகர்யம் ஏற்படுகிறது. சீக்கிரத்தில் சட்டசபை விவரத்திற்கு வரும் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன சீர்திருத்த மசோதாவில் டோல்கேட்டுகளை அடியோடு எடுத்து விட ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பது எனது அபிப்பிராயம்.

“கடைசியாக நான் ஒரு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஏழை ஜனங்கள் அநேகர் கோர்ட்டுக்கு போகிறவர்களாய் இருக்கிறார்கள். கோர்ட்டுகளில் வியாஜ்ஜியங்கள் முடிவதற்கு மிகுந்த காலம் செல்வதுடன் ஏராளமான செலவு ஏற்படுகிறது. வியவசாயிகள் கடன் படுவதற்கு காரணம் வரிச்சுமையும் வியாஜ்ஜியச் சிலவுமே. கவர்ன்மெண்டு வழக்குகள் தாமதமில்லாமல் முடிவதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்வதுடன் ஸ்டாம்பு சட்டத் தையும் கோர்ட்டு பீஸ் சட்டத்தையும் திருத்தி முன்னிருந்த நிலைக்குக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டும். ஏழை குடியானவர்களின் பிழைப்பையும், மானம், குடிசை, கல்வி, வன்மை, அறிவுடமை இவைகளைப் போக்கும் குடியை ஒழிக்கும் முறையை அனுசரிக்கவேண்டும். கவர்ன்மெண்டார் வரும்படியைக் கவனிக்காமல் ஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மையளிப்பதற்கு இக்குடியை அறவே ஒழிக்கவேனுமாய்க் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—“Mr. President, Sir, I do not want to speak on any subject which has been touched upon by any hon. Member of this House. I would make it a point to keep my word and will only confine my remarks to the state of the industrial education in this country (‘Hear, hear’). I have studied the subject for the last 35 years and I now find that the Government have not done anything for industrial education. I challenge the Government in the Transferred Half on whose shoulders this portfolio has been thrown to show what they have done for improving the industrial education. Sir, 10.81 lakhs has been budgeted for the subject of industrial education in this country. Now there are five schools in the Presidency, and the Madras Trades School, the Madras Leather Institute, the Textile Institute and the School of Arts and Crafts are all centred as specimens, as museum specimens in this metropolis. There are students studying in them, but how many? I think about half a dozen, or not more than that in the Textile school which consumes nearly Rs. 40,000. Take the Leather Trades School or any other school. It is only with a view to satisfy the outsiders that these exhibitions are made. The Government have put up a textile school in a place where there are no handlooms. There are more than 50,000 handlooms in the Aruppukkottai taluk and a large number of handlooms in Conjeeveram. The North Arcot district is the district which has got the largest number of handlooms. All these districts are not cared for. They have got peripatetic parties. What do these peripatetic weaving parties do? They say that they are going to demonstrate the appliances and teach fly-shuttle loom and all that. What is the position of the handloom weaver in this Presidency? They are going about to do the harvesting work but they cut their hands because they do not know how to harvest the crops. They come and show me their hands. This is the fate, Sir, of the industrial classes after the introduction of the British Rule in this country and after the competition of Manchester was thrust on us. We have thus been reduced to an actual

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state of slavery. There has been a very costly roving Commission which has been going in this country under the presidency of Sir Thomas Holland. What reforms have they introduced to improve the state of the industries of this country? During the time of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, we wanted a technical dye-house and a place in which to teach improved methods of dyeing. They sent for all the machinery, but whom did they send to teach us? Instead of teaching Turkey Red dyeing, under the regime of Sir Alfred Chatterton, they sent a gentleman who taught us not red-dyeing, but taught us to dye aniline black. The gentleman wanted to learn everything about red-dyeing from Madura and he did not stretch his little finger to teach Madura anything, but he took the trouble of learning from the weavers of Madura their art with a view to introduce it in Manchester. Out of the 10·81 lakhs provided in the Budget for industrial education, 4·8 lakhs would be consumed by the direction charges, and the Madras Trades School, the Madras Textile Institute, etc., will take away 2·5 lakhs. Only a paltry sum of Rs. 45,600 has been provided for industrial scholarships. Sir, for a population of 425 lakhs of people engaged in industries, who come to about 8 per cent of the total population, you have provided only Rs. 45,600. Even the sum that is spent on the direction charges for the District Engineering Schools, etc., are four or five times greater than that. If you take the average that is spent on every head of the population, it is an woeful tale to tell. It shows that the average is three pies per head for industrial education. But on the other hand, you are spending 29·45 lakhs for jails and convict settlements. You are spending so much on jails, you are spending money on completing the jail at Saidapet, you are spending money over the Alipore jail and for providing water-supply in all jails. No doubt you want to consolidate all your strength, because you expect that there will be a revolution and therefore you provide jails for the people. In view of the way in which you are ruling the country, the people are thinking of flying away from this country to other countries in order to escape the trammels of your tyranny. Sir, excuse me for the strong language I use, but I use it because I consider that all these sessions where we are discussing this Budget are sessions where the thermometer—you know there is a thermometer for measuring the loyalty of the people—shows that the loyalty of the people has gone very low and that the loyalty of the people will go lower still if you do not care to understand the real feelings of the people of the country. Of course, you will say that there are people receiving fat salaries who will provide for this and that. But really, are you going to help the industrial classes? When famine breaks out, the hon. Member will say: 'Famine means mere starvation.' Unless the ribs and the bones of the people are seen and can be counted out, he won't say that famine conditions are prevailing in the country. Is that the definition of famine, Sir? I said that the industrial portion of the people with whom I am moving in intimate contact, are feeling this keenly, and I know their feelings well. Unless you take this opportunity and improve their lot by educating them and taking them into your confidence, not that there will be non-co-operation in the country, but there will be direct action in the country, there will be more communists in the country, the country will produce not one Saklatwala, but more before the Soviet Government is established in this country. With these few words, Sir, I entrust to your care the feelings of the country expressed to me. I am not a Bolshevik, I am not a Communist, I have been one of the most loyal

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friends of the Government, and I request you, Sir, from the bottom of my heart, at least to do something for elevating the position of the industrial classes and earn their lasting gratitude."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Although 41 hon. Members have taken part in these discussions till now, there still remain many Members who are anxious to take part in the same; so I propose, with the consent of the Leaders of the House and of the Opposition, not to take up any questions to-morrow, but to devote the whole of to-morrow for these discussions. As already intimated, the afternoon of to-morrow will be allotted to hon. Members of the Treasury Bench for their replies."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

